NATION

Devotees rushed on their own: Temple founder

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BUSINESS

Foreign investors withdraw Rs 14,610 crore in October

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SPORTS

Nair smashes a double century for K'taka against Kerala

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

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India Women smash the ceiling with WC win

NAVI MUMBAI, 2 NOV

The Indian Women's cricket team kept its date with history by winning its first-ever World Cup with a 52-run victory over South to script a golden chapter in the country's pantheon of sporting achievements here on Sunday.

Shafali Verma, the 21-year-old, who till last week wasn't even in the reserves, created memories of a lifetime by scoring 87 in India's 298 for 7 and then grabbed a couple of crucial wickets to restrict the Proteas Women to 246 in in front of a packed DY Patil Stadium.

The seasoned Deepti Sharma (5/39) and young Shree Charani (1/48) also did their bit under extreme pressure to usher in the most memorable day for women's cricket in the country.

Indian players celebrate after defeating South Africa to win the ICC Women's World Cup at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

If 25 June, 1983 was a watershed moment for Indian men's cricket, when Kapil's Devils beat the mighty West Indies at the Lord's, 2 November, 2025 will be a seminal moment for women's cricket movement.

Rohit Sharma, who carries the scars of 19 November, 2023, was watching the final from the stands with a prayer on his lips that Harmanpreet Kaur doesn't meet his fate.

For Harmanpreet, the lady who has done way more for Indian women's cricket than anyone can envisage, knows how much it hurts to lose a final as it happened eight summers back and her girls didn't let her down.

As she latched on to Nadine de Klerk's offering while back pedaling at extra cover, Ian Bishop fittingly called the moment "inspiring generations". It couldn't have been more poetic with AR Rahman's rendition of 'Vande Mataram' reverberating across the stands.

At the other end was the regal Laura Wolvaardt, who gave everything by scoring 101 off 98 balls.

For head coach Amol Muzumdar, the 'Nearly Man' of Indian cricket, who couldn't wear the whites that he richly deserved, the global triumph with the women's national team would certainly heal those wounds that he has carried for years.

This isn't just another World Cup triumph but something whose social impact will only be understood may be two decades from now. *—PTI*

India's Deepti Sharma celebrates after taking Chloe Tryon wicket

DKS promises 3-day holiday for Bihar voters

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said the State would facilitate a three-day holiday for migrant workers travelling to Bihar to vote in the upcoming Assembly elections. Addressing members of the Bihar Association in North Bengaluru, he urged them to support the Mahagathbandhan, saying Nitish Kumar was at the "fag end" of his political career and Tejashwi Yadav was the alliance's CM face. Shivakumar announced that Karnataka would also allot land for the Bihar Association and said migrant workers had never been treated as outsiders. On criticism from MP Tejasvi Surya over the tunnel road project, he said the BJP was "against Bengaluru's development." *—Salar News*

Posters barring pastors, Christians constitutional: HC

BILASPUR, 1 NOV

The Chhattisgarh High Court has disposed of two petitions seeking the removal of hoardings prohibiting entry to pastors and "converted Christians" in eight villages, holding that they were installed to prevent forced conversions through allurement or fraudulent means and cannot be termed as unconstitutional.

The court observed that the hoardings appear to have been installed by the concerned gram sabhas as a precautionary measure to protect the interests of indigenous tribals and local cultural heritage.

The order was passed on petitions filed by one Digbal Tandi of Kanker district and Narendra Bhavani of Bastar district, who highlighted the alleged segregation of Christians and their religious leaders from the mainstream village community.

The pleas alleged that the Panchayat Department instructed the zilla panchayat, janpad panchayat and eventually the gram panchayat to pass resolution/oath in the name and style "Hamari Parampara Hamari Virasat" (our tradition, our heritage).

They alleged that pastors and converted Christians from other villages are prevented from entering Ghotiya, creating a sense of fear among persons from the minority community.

They contended that the gram sabha resolutions and these hoardings violate Article 25 of the Constitution of India that guarantees freedom of religion.

Additional advocate general YS Thakur said that the PESA rules empower the gram sabha to protect the system of local cultural heritage. *—PTI*

ISRO's 'Bahubali' launches heaviest comsat into orbit

The satellite weighing 4,410kg will be used in naval operation

SRIHARIKOTA, 2 NOV

ISRO on Sunday successfully placed India's heaviest communication satellite launched from Indian soil into its intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), marking a major milestone in the country's heavy-lift capability. The CMS-03 satellite, weighing 4,410kg, was carried by the new-generation LVM3-M5 rocket, nicknamed 'Bahubali' for its lifting power.

CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite designed to provide services across a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass. It also serves as a replacement for the GSAT-7 series launched in 2013.

ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space, V Narayanan, announced from the Mission Control Centre that the "4,410-kg satellite has been precisely injected" into GTO. He described LVM3 as the "Bahubali of Indian rockets", recalling that its previous flight was the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which earned global praise after India's historic landing near the lunar south pole in 2023.

Narayanan said all eight LVM3 missions to date, including experimental flights, have been successful, underscoring a 100 per cent mission record. CMS-03 is built for a minimum operational life of 15 years and, he added, stands as "another shining example of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

He noted that scientists haad to contend with unfavourable weather through the countdown but ensured a flawless launch. Until now, ISRO had relied on France-based Arianespace's Ariane rockets from the Kourou launch site in French Guiana to lift heavier satellites. For instance, ISRO's heaviest communication satellite, GSAT-11 (5,854 kg), was launched on an Ariane-5 in December 2018. The LVM3-M5 is a three-stage, fully indigenous launcher comprising two S200 solid strap-on motors, an L110 liquid core stage fuelled by Vikas engines, and a C25 cryogenic upper stage. It can carry payloads up to 4,000 kg to GTO and 8,000 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), giving India full self-reliance for heavy satellite launches. ISRO classifies its rockets depending on mission requirements. The PSLV remains India's versatile workhorse for payloads up to 1,750 kg, while the SSLV caters to 500-kg satellites in LEO. The GSLV serves the 2,200-kg class. *—PTI*

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A HEAVY TAKE-OFF

LAUNCH TIME: 5.26 PM

Launch site: Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

COST: Rs 500 crore

THE ROCKET: LVM3-M5 'BAHUBALI'

- Height: 43.5m (equivalent to a 15-storey building).
- Type: Three-stage heavy-lift launcher.
- Can carry weights from 4,000 kg to 8,000 kg.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Strengthens naval, air and maritime communication networks
- Critical for Indian Navy operations by enabling seamless links between warships, aircraft and remote ocean assets.
- Marks a major milestone for India's heavy-lift launch capability.

THE SATELLITE: CMS-03

Weight: 4,410 KG

- Payload had multi-band, multi-mission communications system.
- Coverage: Wide oceanic zones around the Indian landmass, extending beyond terrestrial limits

ISRO's launch vehicle LVM3-M5 carrying CMS-03 lifts off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota, Andhra on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

JD(U) candidate held for JSP leader's murder in Bihar

PATNA, 2 NOV

Former Bihar MLA and JD(U) Mokama candidate Anant Singh was arrested early on Sunday in connection with the murder of Jan Suraaj supporter Dular Chand Yadav, police said. A Patna court later remanded Singh and two associates, Manikant Thakur and Ranjeet Ram, to 14-day judicial custody.

Yadav died on Thursday while campaigning for Jan Suraaj Party candidate Piyush Priyadarshi in Patna's Mokama area, near the Bhadaur and Ghoswari police stations. Singh, a local strongman, was picked up from his home in Barh, around 200 km from Patna.

At a joint press briefing with Patna District Magistrate Thyagarajan S M, Senior Superintendent of Police Kartikeya Sharma said the three men were present at the time of the incident. Post-mortem findings showed Yadav died of cardiorespiratory failure caused by shock due to injuries to the heart and lungs from a hard, blunt object. "Preliminary investigation indicates it is a case of murder," Sharma said.

Four FIRs have been registered, including one for violation of the model code of conduct. Singh has been named as an accused along with four others in an FIR lodged by Yadav's grandson. Singh, who faces several criminal cases and whose wife Neelam Devi is the sitting Mokama MLA, has also been booked for model code violations after videos showed him travelling with large cavalcades.

Singh admitted to a clash between his supporters and Yadav but attempted to shift blame to his long-time rival Suraj Bhan, whose wife Veena Devi is contesting the Mokama seat on an RJD ticket. Yadav, a gangster of the 1990s known for his rivalry with Singh, had recently thrown his support behind Jan Suraaj's Priyadarshi. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

15 DIE AS TEMPO TRAVELLER RAMS INTO TRUCK IN RAJASTHAN

JAIPUR, 2 NOV

At least 15 people died and two others were injured when a tempo traveller carrying devotees rammed into a stationary trailer truck in Rajasthan's Phalodi on Sunday, police said.

The incident occurred near Matoda village on the Bharat Mala Highway, they said.

"Fifteen passengers died, while two others sustained serious injuries. The injured were first taken to a hospital in Osian for primary treatment and later referred to Jodhpur," Jodhpur Police Commissioner Om Prakash said.

According to police, the victims were residents of the Sursagar area in Jodhpur and were returning from the Kolayat temple in Bikaner after offering prayers at the Kapil Muni Ashram.

All the bodies have been kept in the mortuary of the Osian government hospital. *—PTI*

TN parties led by DMK to move SC against SIR

CHENNAI, 2 NOV

An all-party meeting chaired by Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday resolved to move the Supreme Court against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu. The decision followed the Election Commission's refusal to defer the exercise until after the 2026 Assembly election.

Stalin said the SIR was being conducted "hastily" and alleged it aimed to "snatch away the people's voting rights and murder democracy." Sharing the resolution on X, he said it was the duty of all parties to unite and oppose the exercise. Over 49 participated in the meet.

DMK leader RS Bharathi called the SIR an attempt to "indirectly implement the NRC," while CPI(M)'s U Vasuki described the resolution as the result of a democratic drafting process. TVK, which skipped the meeting, separately condemned the SIR and criticised the DMK for not passing a Kerala-style Assembly resolution opposing it. EC will carry out the second phase of the SIR in 12 States and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, with final rolls to be published on 7 February, 2026.

The Supreme Court is already hearing a related case concerning the first phase of SIR conducted in Bihar. *—Agencies*

MOB ATTACKS AMBULANCE

Ambulance mows down couple in B'luru

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

A couple was killed and two others injured, while several two-wheelers were allegedly hit by a speeding ambulance at a traffic signal in the city, police said on Sunday.

The incident allegedly happened on 1 November at 11pm at KH junction near the Shanti Nagar bus stand here.

The ambulance driver, who had allegedly fled from the spot after the incident, has been traced and detained by the police on Sunday morning, police said.

According to eyewitnesses, the speeding ambulance allegedly lost control and collided with several two-wheelers at the signal. The ambulance allegedly even dragged one of the two wheelers for a few metres, before coming to a halt after crashing into a nearby signal control post.

Ismail and his wife Sameen Banu (inset) were killed after an empty but speeding ambulance rammed their vehicle at a signal on Richmond Road in Bengaluru on Saturday night **PHOTO: SALAR**

- The speeding ambulance allegedly lost control and collided with several two-wheelers.

The deceased man was around 40 years old and his wife was around 33. They were rushed to the hospital immediately after the accident, but could not be saved, they said.

The other two injured were also shifted to hospital and have undergone treatment.

The angry crowd pushed the ambulance and overturned it, after the incident, alleging that there was no patient inside when the incident occurred, police said. Police have registered a case. *—PTI*

PHOTO: SALAR

CM gives ₹1 cr for 2026 Chenanda hockey event

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has announced a government grant of Rs 1 crore for the Chenanda Hockey Tournament, scheduled to be held in May 2026. The announcement was made in a post on X, following the release of the tournament logo at his home office in Krishna. Siddaramaiah said Kodavas and hockey share an "inseparable bond", noting that Kodagu has produced several hockey players who have excelled at the international level, including at the Asian Games. Their achievements, Siddaramaiah said, have brought "pride and honour" to India. He also praised the Kodava community for preserving its unique cultural identity. ***—Salar News***

PHOTO: X

MBA graduate found dead at Bengaluru home

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

A 25-year-old woman was found hanging in a decomposed state at her rented house in the north portion of Gayatrinagar, police said on Sunday. The woman, an MBA graduate from Davangere, worked with a private firm and was known to live alone. Locals said she had a passion for bike riding. Police said her family became worried when she failed to answer calls and asked the house owner to check on her. When the owner opened the door, which was locked from inside, her body was found hanging in a room on the third floor of the building on Railway Parallel Road on Saturday. Police suspect she died several days earlier, though the exact time will be known after the post-mortem. Her mobile phone has been sent to the forensic science laboratory for data analysis. A case of unnatural death has been registered. ***—PTI***

Help is available. Please call Tele Manas at 14416, SAHAI at 080-25497777 for support

PHOTO: PTI

Indian Navy to conduct Tri-Service Exercise in Nov

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Tri-Services Exercise (TSE-2025) Trishul, led by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Army and Air Force, will begin in early November 2025. The Western Naval Command, in partnership with the Southern Command and South Western Air Command, will oversee the large-scale exercise spanning the creek and desert sectors of Rajasthan and Gujarat, and the northern Arabian Sea. The drill will involve extensive maritime and amphibious operations, including deployment of the Navy's warships, Air Force fighters, and the Army's amphibious elements using INS Jalashwa and Landing Craft Utility vessels. The Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force, and other central agencies will also participate to strengthen inter-agency coordination. Aimed at validating joint operational procedures, Trishul will focus on enhancing interoperability, network integration, and multi-domain synergy across land, sea, and air. It will also test joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), electronic warfare, and cyber warfare capabilities, including coordinated carrier operations between the Indian Navy and the Air Force. ***—ANI***

BJP starts signature stir against tunnel road project

DKS asks BJP leaders to offer suggestions instead of criticism

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

BJP leaders on Sunday launched a signature campaign and held a silent protest at Lalbagh botanical garden against the State government's proposed tunnel road project in Bengaluru, denouncing it as a "VIP corridor" that would damage the City and its environment.

The protest, held under the banner "Protect Bengaluru – Stop Tunnel Road", was led by Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, along with several party legislators. The leaders interacted with morning walkers and members of the public, alleging that the project would have a severe environmental impact on Lalbagh and its surroundings. They claimed that six acres of Lalbagh land would be acquired.

Reacting to the agitation, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said he was willing to form a committee headed by Ashoka to examine the project and consider its recommendations. Dismissing the BJP's criticism, he said the project was for public benefit, adding, "I'm not a fool to destroy Lalbagh." Shivakumar accused the BJP of politicising the issue and said the Congress could also organise a signature drive if needed. He added that the BJP "is zero without the RSS".

The proposed 16.75km tunnel road between Silk Board and Hebbal is estimated to cost around Rs 17,800 crore.

16.75 KILOMETRE proposed tunnel road, which spans between Silk Board and Hebbal is estimated to cost around Rs 17,800 crore.

Opposition leader R Ashoka, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya and party leaders take part in the 'Save Lalbagh, Stop Tunnel Road' campaign at Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Sunday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

Ashoka claimed the project would serve only car users, excluding the majority of Bengaluru commuters, since two-wheelers would not be allowed. He said 70 per cent of Bengaluru's vehicles are two-wheelers and called the tunnel "a VIP project".

Ashoka said the City civic body would need to borrow Rs 8,000 crore, and accused the government of calling tenders without clearances from the Geological Survey of India despite the tunnel passing 130 feet beneath Lalbagh, a protected monument. He questioned whether the project would solve traffic problems and criticised the government for failing to meet its 31 October deadline to fill potholes, with officials reporting 25,000 still pending.

Surya called the scheme "by the rich and for the rich", citing its high projected toll of Rs 20,000 per month and its limited capacity of 1,800 vehicles per hour. He said the same funding could build over 300km of metro and argued that public transport, which carries 60,000 commuters per hour, was the only viable solution. He also alleged that the DPR itself shows Rs 7,500 crore viability gap funding would be needed, making the project financially unsustainable.

Shivakumar retorted that Surya should secure suburban rail from the Centre if he wants it implemented, and questioned where a BRTS corridor could be placed in the City. *—Salar News*

7 State students drown in 2 separate tragedies

MYSURU/KANNUR, 2 NOV

Seven students from Karnataka drowned in two separate incidents over the weekend, in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district and off the Payyambalam coast in Kerala.

In the first incident, four students from Hajira Nishwana Arabic School in Udayagiri, Mysuru, were washed away in the Ramaswamy Canal at Mahadevapura Bore near Mandyakoppal village on Saturday. Police recovered two bodies that evening and retrieved the remaining two on Sunday. The deceased are Ayesha, 14; Honey, 13; Afreen, 13; and Jania Parveen, 13.

Police said around 15 madrasa students from Shanti Nagar had gone on an outing when Ayesha slipped into the canal while washing her clothes. The other three students drowned while attempting to rescue her. Another student, Mohammed Ghouse, who also jumped in to help, was rescued and admitted to KR Hospital in Mysuru.

In Kerala, three Karnataka-origin medical students drowned off Payyambalam beach in Kannur around 11 am on Sunday. The victims are Afnan, Rahanuddeen and Afras, all medical students in Bengaluru. According to police, a group of eight students entered the sea for a swim, but three were pulled away by strong waves. Though they were rescued and taken to hospital, they could not be saved. *—Salar News*

RSS can't be banned on a whim: Hosabale

JABALPUR, 2 NOV

PHOTO: PTI

- RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said that society and the government system had both ruled earlier bans unjustified and urged those demanding to learn from past

RSS General Secretary **Dattatreya Hosabale** said the organisation cannot be banned merely because someone wishes so, urging those demanding it to learn from past experiences.

Addressing reporters after a three-day all-India executive meeting in Jabalpur on Saturday, Hosabale was responding to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remark that the RSS should be banned. "Such attempts were made three times in the past. What did the courts and society say then? Despite all this, the Sangh's work kept growing. There must be valid reasons to impose a ban," he said.

Hosabale added that society and the government system had both ruled earlier bans unjustified. "If a leader says an organisation working for India's unity, security and culture should be banned, he must also state the reason," he said.

On polls, he clarified that the Bihar and West Bengal polls were not discussed at the meeting. However, the Sangh encouraged people to vote on national and social issues, not caste or money. Referring to Bengal, he said the state faced instability due to political failures and cross-border pressure, while RSS were working to promote harmony. *—PTI*

Priyank Kharge hits out at Sambit Patra

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

State Minister Priyank Kharge on Saturday hit back at BJP MP Sambit Patra for criticising Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), accusing him of defending an organisation that rejected the Constitution and upheld Manusmriti.

"Since when did Patra become so eloquent to discuss Mr Kharge? Congress stands by constitutional values,"Priyank said.

Priyank also questioned the RSS's funding and unregistered status, demanding a ban on its activities on government premises.

Minister Priyank's remarks followed Patra's charge that Kharge's statements echoed those of extremist outfits opposing the RSS for "uniting the nation." *— ANI*

'PERSONAL ATTACK'

Belagavi: 5 attacked with knives during Rajyotsava event

BELAGAVI, 2 NOV

Five people were injured, two of them seriously, after unidentified men attacked them with knives and machetes during Karnataka Rajyotsava celebrations near Lakshmi Complex in Sadashiv Nagar, under APMC police limits, on Saturday night.

Commissioner of Police Bhushan Borase said the attack occurred when a group of youths were dancing in a procession marking the State's foundation day. A gang suddenly charged into the crowd, assaulted five people, and fled.

Four victims sustained stab injuries, while another suffered a head wound. Two critically injured were admitted to KLE Hospital, and three others to the district hospital. All are residents of Nehru Nagar and reported to be out of danger.

Police are analysing CCTV footage to identify the assailants and ascertain the motive. "The attack was purely personal and unrelated to Rajyotsava or any 'black day' activities," Borase said, urging people to ignore rumours and maintain peace. The injured were identified as Gurunath Vakkund, Sachin Kamble, Lokesh Betageri, Mahesh Sunkad, and Vinayak Nyamagouder.

- Four victims sustained stab injuries, while another suffered a head wound. Two critically injured were admitted to KLE Hospital, and three others to the district hospital.

Meanwhile, a selfie of Malmaruti police inspector GM Kalimirchi with MES leader Shubham Shelke drew criticism online. The officer had earlier recommended Shelke's externment for allegedly disturbing linguistic harmony. Home Minister G Parameshwar said disciplinary action would be taken, stressing that officials must uphold loyalty to the state and its language.

"The government will not tolerate such embarrassment," he said. The BJP criticised the state government's handling of the issue and demanded the inspector's suspension. *—Salar News*

DKS will be CM after Siddaramaiah's five-year term, says Zameer

KOPPAL, 2 NOV

Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan dismissed rumours of an imminent change in the Chief Minister's office, asserting that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar would take over after Siddaramaiah completes his term in 2028.

"There is no 'Kranti' (revolution)," Khan stated, reinforcing that "Siddaramaiah will remain the chief minister till 2028." He acknowledged Shivakumar's aspirations, saying, "It is natural for his supporters to have such a desire. ... after Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar will become the CM."

He cited Shivakumar's contributions, emphasising that Congress party's success—garnering 140 seats—is thanks to both leaders. There has been ongoing speculation regarding a potential leadership change within the Congress as the government approaches the halfway mark of its term in November, dubbed the "November revolution" by some political circles. The CM has asserted he intends to serve the full five years, pending the Congress high command's approval. *—PTI*

MISTY MORNING

Bengaluru, known for its cool charm, turned even cooler on Sunday. From mist settling on leaves to fog drifting through the air, the City welcomed winter. Early risers stepped out to savour Bengaluru in its quiet glory: birds chirping and people taking unhurried strolls in parks, far from the City's usual hustle and bustle ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

30 PEOPLE KILLED IN 2025

No more safaris if human-wildlife conflict escalates: Khandre

CHAMARAJANAGAR, 2 NOV

Safari operations in Bandipur and Mysuru could be completely shut down if human–wildlife conflict continues to rise, warned Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre on Sunday that

The government has already reduced safari trips, he said, adding that staff shortages in conflict-prone areas may force the reassignment of personnel currently deployed for safaris.

Speaking at a meeting of Forest, Revenue and Police officials at the Chamarajanagar Zilla Panchayat auditorium, Khandre criticised the lack of coordination between departments and said "blame games will not be tolerated". He noted that shrinking forest areas, a rise in wildlife numbers and habitat disturbances were contributing to increasing encounters. Bandipur's tiger population has surged from 12 in 1972 to 153 now, he said.

Addressing reporters later, the minister stated that the government has not permitted illegal resorts, homestays or illegal mining activities and would take strict action if any such cases are reported. He added that two expert committees have been set up to study the causes of escalating conflict and said he would discuss with the Chief Minister the possibility of increasing compensation for victims of wildlife attacks, crop loss and property damage.

Highlighting the scale of the crisis, Khandre said wildlife attacks claimed 41 lives in 2021, 57 in 2022–23, 65 in 2023–24, and 30 deaths have been reported until the end of October 2025.

The minister directed forest authorities to ensure adequate food sources for wildlife by removing invasive weeds such as lantana and senna to restore natural vegetation.

He also urged officials to handle conflict-related deaths sensitively by conducting post-mortems promptly, handing over bodies without delay and remaining with families until funerals conclude. *—Salar News*

KHANDRE OUTLINED AN EIGHT-POINT PLAN TO STRENGTHEN CONFLICT MITIGATION

1. Identify conflict-prone areas and document incident types.
2. Deploy staff based on conflict severity, drawing personnel from nearby ranges.
3. Increase patrolling; equip all patrol vehicles with GPS and maintain patrol logs in forest-border villages.
4. Ensure senior officers regularly visit and stay in conflict-hit villages.
5. Engage communities by appointing "Forest Friends" (Aranya Mitra).
6. Ensure 24×7 availability of vehicles and staff in wildlife movement zones.
7. Conduct mock drills and awareness sessions in villages.
8. Establish district-level and taluk-level coordination committees.

PHOTO: ANI

Telangana CM hits out at BRS for 'misleading' voters

HYDERABAD, 2 NOV

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has declared the 'car'— the BRS election symbol—has been "dumped in the garage" as he accused the party's leaders of misleading voters ahead of the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-elections. Addressing a meeting in Borabanda, he alleged BRS leaders were using autorickshaws to distract constituents. Reddy also took aim at KT Rama Rao (KTR), suggesting that family disputes within the BRS reflect poorly on their leadership. He urged voters to support Congress candidate V Naveen Yadav with a majority of at least 30,000 votes. The by-election, necessitated by the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath, is set for 11 November, while results will be declared on 14 November. —*PTI*

Ajit Pawar elected M'rashtra Olympic Association Prez

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has been elected unopposed for a fourth term as president of the Maharashtra Olympic Association (MOA) following an agreement between NCP and BJP allies regarding key posts within the association. His election was facilitated by support from 22 of the 31 member sports federations. To ensure coordination within the ruling Mahayuti alliance, discussions were held between Pawar, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and NCP leaders Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare. Alongside him, senior sports administrators Adil Sumariwala, Pradeep Gandhe, and Prashant Deshpande were elected as vice presidents. Pawar will prioritise grassroots sports development, infrastructure enhancement, and transparency within the MOA. —*PTI*

India needs thicker skin: Tharoor on prof's deportation

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has commented on the deportation of UK scholar Francesca Orsini from Delhi airport, asserting that India needs a "thicker skin". Tharoor argued that deporting academics over minor visa violations harms the nation's credibility more than negative portrayals in foreign journals. His remarks followed an article by former BJP MP Swapan Dasgupta, who stressed that the state should not assess academic scholarship. Orsini, a respected Hindi scholar, was deported after being listed for visa violations since March. Tharoor's statement echoed broader concerns regarding the government's treatment of independent scholarship, with historian Ramachandra Guha labelling the government's actions as insecure and damaging to India's cultural heritage. —*PTI*

'Bihar is maha jungle raj under NDA govt'

Dular's kin refuse last rites until guilty held

BEGUSARAI/KHAGARIA, 2 NOV

RJD leader and INDIA bloc's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday welcomed the arrest of former MLA Anant Singh in the Dular Chand Yadav murder case but said the action "should have been taken earlier". He alleged that Bihar was witnessing a "maha jungle raj", with murders reported "almost every day".

Citing recent killings in Ara and Rohtas, Tejashwi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who arrived in Patna for a roadshow, was ignoring the "deteriorating law and order situation". "There isn't a single day without gunfire. But the Prime Minister does not see this," he told reporters. He also accused Modi of failing to create employment in Bihar. "He has not given a single job in 11 years. Now he promises 10 million jobs. It is just a gimmick," he said.

Tejashwi claimed the INDIA bloc would form the next government and said he expected to take oath as chief minister on 18 November. "Between 26 November and 26 January , all criminals will be jailed, irrespective of caste or religion," he added.

Tejashwi Yadav speaks to the media ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls, in Patna on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Meanwhile, Dular Chand Yadav's grandson said the family would not perform the brahambhoj ritual unless "all five accused are arrested and sentenced to death". He alleged his grandfather was killed "with the help of the administration".

'Modi scared of Trump, bizmen'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "scared" of US President Donald Trump and "remote-controlled" by big business interests.

Gandhi said Modi halted "Operation Sindoor" — a military confrontation with Pakistan — after Trump's interventio. —*PTI*

'Cong made Tejashwi CM face at gunpoint'

INDIA will encourage murder & extortion: Shah

ARRAH/ NAWADA, 2 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday claimed that the Congress had been unwilling to accept Tejashwi Yadav as the INDIA bloc's chief ministerial candidate and relented only after the RJD pointed a "katta", an unlicensed country-made gun, at its head.

The PM said this during rallies in Bhojpur and Nawada districts, where he highlighted the RJD's reputation for alleged strong-arm tactics and its troubled equations with alliance partners.

Modi referred to the reserved Kutumba seat, where the RJD had reportedly planned to field a candidate against sitting MLA and state Congress president Rajesh Kumar.

The PM also predicted a "record victory" for the ruling NDA, which would continue providing a government that was "upright" and "foresighted" and build a "developed Bihar" that was necessary for "Viksit Bharat".

Modi said the manifesto released by the NDA was honest and put forth a vision for the future.

He also envisaged a future in which people of the state will not migrate under economic compulsions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting ahead of Bihar Assembly elections in Nawada in Bihar on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Any act of violence will not be tolerated. All voters will be able to cast their votes peacefully, freely and transparently. The Election Commission is prepared

-Gyanesh Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner

He alleged that the RJD and Congress care about "just two families -- one most corrupt in Bihar and another most corrupt in the country".

The PM alleged 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' was aimed to protect infiltrators (ghuspaithiye) who must be driven out lest they capture the resources meant for the people of Bihar.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah vowed to make Bihar free from floods and said that the INDIA bloc would create "three portfolios of murder, kidnapping and extortion" if it wins in the state. —*PTI*

CONGRESS QUESTIONS PM, CM ON 'PAPER LEAKS, CRIME'

NEW Delhi, 2 NOV

Congress party has challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on issues of paper leaks, family displacement for jobs, and escalating crime rates. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned, "Why was the hard work and future of millions of Bihar's youth compromised?" He also highlighted a shocking scam worth Rs 70,000 crore uncovered by the CAG. — *PTI*

RAGA UNWINDS

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday took some time off the campaign trail in poll-bound Bihar to catch fish in Begusarai district, after addressing a rally. Former state minister Mukesh Sahni accompanied Gandhi and they were later joined by a few fishermen **PHOTO: PTI**

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO OBSERVE BIHAR POLL CAMPAIGN

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

A delegation of foreign diplomats from several countries, including Japan and the UK, commenced a two-day visit to Bihar on 2 November 2025 to observe the BJP's election campaign and India's democratic process. Participants from Indonesia, Denmark, Australia, Bhutan, and South Africa are included in the initiative. "The visit under the 'Know BJP' initiative... aims to familiarise diplomats with the BJP's outreach," explained Vijay Chauthaiwale. The Bihar elections are scheduled for 6 and 11 November, with results on 14 November. —*PTI*

Punjab cops check newspaper vehicles, Oppn cries foul

CHANDIGARH, 2 NOV

Newspaper deliveries were delayed at some places in Punjab on Sunday morning after police conducted vehicle checks, particularly commercial transports, during the intervening night of Saturday-Sunday.

Even though Punjab Police clarified that it undertook checking of vehicles carrying various items following specific intelligence inputs, opposition parties hit out at the AAP

Punjab BJP working president Ashwani Sharma termed it "undeclared Emergency by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in Punjab", claiming that panicked by the Sheesh Mahal 2.0 news, the AAP government attacked the media.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal claimed the government targeted vehicles carrying newspapers "because they do not want anyone writing against them".

The police said the vehicle checks were conducted under the supervision of gazetted officers at selected points in a norderly manner without causing any inconvenience to the public.

Punjab has been "facing the brunt of the designs of Pakistan's ISI to bleed India by waging a proxy war" through smuggling of contraband, arms and explosives from across the international border using rogue drones and transporting them using various types of vehicles, the police said.

The Chandigarh Press Club said in a statement that it strongly condemns "the police action of stopping vehicles carrying newspapers in various districts of Punjab".

Newspaper distribution was either delayed or halted in Gurdaspur, Patiala, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur and others places in the state. —*PTI*

Sivankutty calls IUML's remarks on CM despicable

T'PURAM, 2 NOV

Kerala General Education Minister V Sivankutty on Sunday strongly criticised Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader PMA Salam for his "despicable" remarks against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over the state government's decision to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Centre on the PM SHRI scheme. The state has since frozen the accord following objections from the CPI.

Sivankutty urged the IUML leadership to direct Salam to apologies, saying his comments were an insult to Kerala's cultural values and reflected political frustration at the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's achievements in the public education sector. He maintained that Kerala's education model remains secular and uncompromised despite utilising central funds.

The IUML leadership, including its supremo Panakkad Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal and senior leader PK Kunhalikutty, distanced itself from Salam's statement, asserting that political criticism should not "descend to the level of personal insult" and that such remarks do not reflect the party's policy.

Sivankutty said that although the state had put the scheme on hold, it would continue to seek Samagra Shiksha Kerala funds from the Centre. He would attend meet the Union Education Minister in Delhi on 10 November. —*PTI*

WB CM allowed 2 B'deshis to live illegally in WB village: BJP

KOLKATA, 2 NOV

Union Minister and BJP leader Sukanta Majumdar has alleged that two Bangladeshi nationals have been living illegally in West Bengal's Dakshin Dinajpur district for over two years, while police have taken no action under instructions from "failed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee."

Majumdar claimed that the police ignored complaints because such individuals form part of the Trinamool Congress's vote bank. A written complaint, along with copies of the Bangladesh-issued identity cards of the accused, was submitted to Bansihari Police Station, he said.

Sharing details on X, the Balurghat MP said that despite repeated complaints by Feroze Mian, a resident of Lalpur village, authorities had failed to act against Lovely Begum and Abdul Mannan, the alleged infiltrators.

Majumdar accused the state government of "throwing national security to the wind" for political gain.

In his original complaint filed on 27 November, 2023, Mian alleged that the two had been living illegally and might engage in subversive activities. He also claimed they assaulted him at his home in September 2023. —*PTI*

SIR like pouring acid in snake pits: Suvendu

KOLKATA, 2 NOV

Amidst the row over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday said the move was akin to the Election Commission (EC) pouring carbolic acid into snake pits to expose infiltrators staying in the state.

Adhikari said infiltrators living in the state for years with the help of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) would now be identified, detected and deported.

Carbolic acid, also known as phenol, is traditionally used in as a snake repellent due to its strong, pungent smell.

"See how Bangladeshi infiltrators are being caught by the BSF while trying to flee towards their own country. All these developments have been taking place after the SIR exercise was announced," Adhikari said.

The Nandigram MLA said Indian citizens belonging to Muslim and other minority communities need not worry about the exercise. Only Bangladeshi Muslim infiltrators and Rohingyas would be deported after identification.

The BJP will move the Calcutta High Court seeking permission to hold a rally in Agarpara to highlight the TMC's attempt to politicise an unnatural death against the SIR exercise. —*PTI*

'NEVER STOP LEARNING'

Question certainty: CJI designate to students

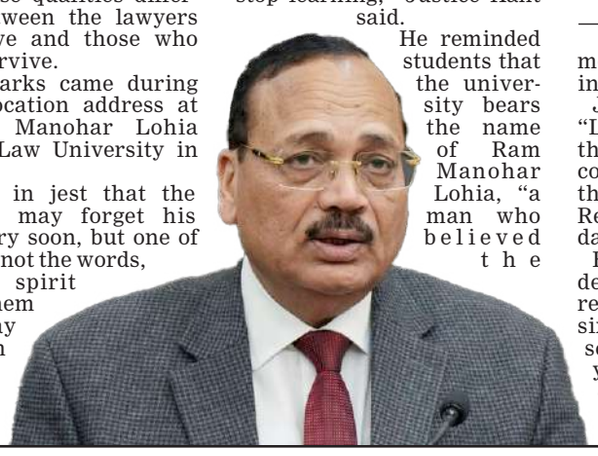
LUCKNOW, 2 NOV

CJI designate Surya Kant on Sunday urged young law graduates to stay curious and never stop learning and question intellectual certainity as these qualities differential between the lawyers who thrive and those who merely survive.

His remarks came during the convocation address at Dr Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University in Lucknow.

He said in jest that the graduates may forget his speech very soon, but one of its ideas -- not the words, but the spirit behind them -- may stay with them for longer.

"It is the difference between lawyers who merely survive and those who truly thrive. That difference lies not in how much you know in the beginning, but in your willingness to stay curious and never stop learning," Justice Kant said.



He reminded students that the university bears the name of Ram Manohar Lohia, "a man who believed the most dangerous comfort is intellectual certainty".

Justice Kant added, "Lohia's legacy teaches us that growth requires the courage to ask -- should it be this way, or different? Renewal begins when we dare to question."

He congratulated the students and teachers and remarked that this was the sixth of 11 convocations he is scheduled to address this year. "Every time, I try to change the subject and share new ideas with my dear young law graduates," the CJI designate said.

- Justice Surya Kant narrated how he once lost a seemingly straightforward property dispute case between brothers because of overconfidence. He said the early years of practice will bring their own doubts and challenges. Lawyers must "not accept the system as it is, but make it what it should be," he said.

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He reminded the students that lawyers must "not accept the system as it is, but try to make it what it should be." —*PTI*

Row over Lord Ram's arrow pointing at dirt in banner

SHIMLA, 2 NOV

Shimla Police have registered a case against unidentified persons after a banner showing Lord Rama aiming an arrow at a garbage heap was found near the Himachal Pradesh Secretariat in Chhota Shimla.

The complaint, filed by Advocate Bharat Bhushan, coordinator of the Dev Bhumi Sangharsh Samiti, alleged that the banner, reportedly put up by officials of the Shimla Municipal Corporation, insulted the deity and hurt Hindu religious sentiments.

Bhushan also raised concerns that similar banners may have been placed in other parts of the city, potentially provoking public outrage and offending devotees.

The police registered a case. for deliberate acts intended to outrage religious feelings by insulting a religion. —*PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Relatives of MP warehouse fire to get Rs 4 lakh aid

BHOPAL, 2 NOV

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced a financial aid of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of two women workers killed in a fire at a chemical warehouse in Indore. The women were charred to death on 1 November after a massive blaze erupted at the warehouse, located in Rau, where thinner and other flammable chemicals were stored. The incident took place when lamps were being lit on the occasion of Devuthani Ekadashi. The owner of the warehouse, Suraj Bhagwani was also injured. The bodies were identified as those of Jyoti and Ramkali, both aged around 50. The police are investigating to ascertain the incident. *—PTI*

Mozambique boat victim's body arrives in Kochi

KOCHI, 2 NOV

The body of a Kerala man who had gone missing after the recent Mozambique boat capsize was brought to Kochi on Sunday. The body of another victim, Sreeraj Radhakrishnan, a native of Kollam, was brought home last week. The mortal remains of Indrajith, a native of Veliyanad in Piravom, arrived at the Kochi airport in the morning. He was among 21 people, including 14 Indians, on board a boat that capsized near Beira Port while they were being ferried to the tanker MT Sea Quest for maintenance work. Santhosh, Indrajith's father, who also works in the shipping sector in South Africa, returned home after learning about the death of his son. *—PTI*

Babies get Aadhaar on the same day of birth in J'khand

JAMSHEDPUR, 2 NOV

The Chakradharpur divisional railway hospital in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district said newborns in the medical facility were enrolled in Aadhaar and their birth certificates were issued simultaneously for the first time. Aadhaar enrolment of four babies, born on 2 November, was completed on the same day. This has been made possible through the coordinated efforts of the Chakradharpur divisional railway manager and the crew management system, the district administration, and the postal and Aadhaar departments. In the future, officials from these departments will visit the Railway Hospital, Chakradharpur, regularly to facilitate the issuance of Aadhaar cards to all the newborn babies. This initiative will help facilitate and expedite the process, making it easier. *—PTI*

Mastermind of Odisha PSI job scam arrested

BHUBANESWAR, 2 NOV

The suspected mastermind of the sub-inspector recruitment scam in Odisha was arrested from the India-Nepal border in Uttarakhand. Shankar Prusty, on the run for over a month, was brought to Bhubaneswar on Sunday on a transit remand. Prusty is the owner of Panchsoft Technologies, which was given a part of the contract to conduct the written examination for filling 933 sub-inspector posts in the police and other uniformed services. 124 people, including 114 job aspirants, have been arrested in the multi-crore scam. The job aspirants were, however, released on bail. Prusty was taken to Cuttack for interrogation. The recruitment examination, to be held on 5 and 6 October, was postponed after the scam came to light. *—PTI*

Devotees rushed on their own: Temple founder

94-year-old temple builder denies role in Andhra stampede

KASIBUGGA, 2 NOV

Claiming he was not responsible for the tragic stampede at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple that left nine devotees dead, the 94-year-old founder of the shrine said devotees had rushed on their own during the gathering.

Hari Mukunda Panda, who built the temple on his private land at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district, said he did not inform the police as he expected the day to pass like any other. "I told everyone to go in a queue line, but so many people came at once. I did not inform the police; I thought everything would be normal," Panda told reporters.

Nine people, eight women and a boy, were killed and several others injured in the stampede on Saturday. The rush was intensified by the Ekadasi observance coinciding with Karthika Masam.

Temple founder Hari Mukunda Panda said he did not inform the police as he expected the day to pass like any other *PHOTO: PTI*

Srikakulam superintendent of police KV Maheshwara Reddy said the temple was a private establishment operating without mandatory permissions or registration with the Endowments Department. "The organisers neither sought approval nor police protection before conducting the event," he said, adding that a case has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The Andhra Pradesh police have since barred devotees from entering the temple, which remains locked with security deployed on site. Survivors said the stampede occurred when a broken grill and a closed gate caused a group of devotees to fall onto those waiting below the staircase.

CM N Chandrababu Naidu expressed anguish over the tragedy, observing a two-minute silence for the victims. He said the incident was "extremely painful" and vowed strict action against those responsible. Minister Nara Lokesh described it as 'unfortunate,' attributing it to an unexpected rush and lack of management. *—Agencies*

Two held for targeted killings in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, 2 NOV

Punjab Police have apprehended two individuals allegedly assigned to execute targeted killings of rival gang members within the state by their handlers based abroad. This operation was described as part of a larger scheme to instill terror and chaos in Punjab, according to Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav.

"In a major breakthrough, Gurdaspur Police arrested two accused – Lovedeep Singh @ Love and Tek Chand @ Tinku – who are being managed by foreign-radicalised gangsters Gurdev Jassal and Gurlal @ Gullu, linked to the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist organisation," Yadav stated.

Authorities recovered three .32 calibre pistols with live cartridges from the suspects. Investigations are ongoing to dismantle the gangster-terror nexus in the region. *—PTI*

Inside LVM3: The rocket fueling India's heavy-lift dreams

>>> CONTINUED FROM 1

The LVM3-M5 launch marks another step in India's long-term effort to build a fully indigenous heavy-lift rocket fleet. The vehicle's core design features three stages, each built at key ISRO centres across the country.

The two S200 solid rocket boosters, manufactured at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram, provide the powerful thrust required for liftoff.

These twin boosters fire in parallel and detach once their fuel is spent.

The second stage, designated L110, uses liquid fuel and is powered by two Vikas engines developed at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.

This stage stabilises the trajectory and builds the velocity required to reach the upper atmosphere.

At the top sits the C25 cryogenic stage, developed with fully indigenous technology, and crucial for carrying heavy payloads into GTO. The cryogenic engine uses super-cooled propellants that offer high efficiency, enabling LVM3 to lift satellites in the 4-tonne class.

LVM3's earlier missions include the Chandrayaan-3 flight, which delivered the 3,841.4-kg propulsion module and lander complex.

With the success of the latest mission, ISRO confirms that the rocket maintains a flawless track record since its first development flight in 2014, when it carried out the Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE).

The rocket is also central to the Gaganyaan programme, with its human-rated variant, HRLV, designated to carry Indian astronauts into Low Earth Orbit. *—PTI*

One in 9 carry infectious disease in 2025: ICMR

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Pathogens were detected in 11.1 per cent of 4.5 lakh patients tested by laboratories under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as part of efforts to track viral infections of public health concern.

According to ICMR's Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDL) network, the infection rate rose from 10.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2025 to 11.5 per cent in the second quarter, indicating a slight rise in infectious diseases.

- According to ICMR's VRDL network, the infection rate rose from 10.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2025 to 11.5 per cent in the second quarter

The top five pathogens identified were Influenza A in acute respiratory cases, dengue virus in fever cases, Hepatitis A in jaundice, Norovirus in diarrhoeal outbreaks, and Herpes simplex virus in encephalitis cases.

A senior scientist said the increase, though small, signals the need for continued surveillance to prevent seasonal outbreaks. The VRDL network serves as the early warning system. *—PTI*

Railway porter molests actress in T'puram, held

T'PURAM, 2 NOV

A porter at Kochuveli railway station here was arrested for allegedly molesting an actress, officials said on Sunday.

Police identified the accused as **Arun**, a resident of Kochuveli. The incident occurred on Thursday when the actress arrived at the station to board a train.

According to officials, as she was trying to reach another platform, Arun offered to help and suggested she cross through a stationary train. While the victim was climbing onto the platform after moving through the parked train, the accused allegedly held her inappropriately, police said.

The actress resisted and immediately sought help from railway authorities before lodging a complaint at the Pettah police station.

Based on her statement, police registered a case on Friday and arrested Arun. Railway officials said the porter has been suspended and a departmental inquiry has been initiated into the incident. *— PTI*

CHIEF SECRETARIES SUMMONED

SC to hear on stray dogs today

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

The Supreme Court of India is set to hear a significant case concerning stray dogs on 3 November, directed at the chief secretaries of all states and Union Territories (UTs), excluding West Bengal and Telangana. This stems from a previous order requiring these officials to provide compliance affidavits regarding the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, which were due following an 22 August directive.

During a recent hearing, the court expressed dissatisfaction, noting that compliance had only been reported by West Bengal, Telangana, and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Chief Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria ordered the chief secretaries to appear in person, rejecting a request from Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for virtual attendance. The court remarked, "There was 'no respect' for the court's order," and emphasised the need for explanations regarding the lack of compliance affidavits.

- The court remarked, "There was 'no respect' for the court's order," and emphasised the need for explanations regarding the lack of compliance affidavits

This case was prompted by media reports highlighting incidents of stray dog bites causing rabies, leading to the apex Court's intervention. The case has now extended beyond Delhi to include all states and UTs. *—PTI*

Farmer protests with buffalo carcass in Palghar

PALGHAR, 2 NOV

A farmer staged a striking protest outside a nationalised bank in Maharashtra's Palghar district, displaying the carcass of a dead buffalo to demand immediate insurance compensation. The dramatic demonstration attracted a large crowd and required police intervention.

Navsu Digha, a cattle rearer from Takpada village, claimed that despite insuring his ten milking buffaloes purchased in 2022 with a loan of Rs 12 lakh, he had not received any compensation for two buffaloes that died in the past three years. "Even after taking insurance for my buffaloes, I have not received a single rupee," he lamented. "Let the bank keep it until I am paid," he warned during the protest.

After a bank officer assured compensation would be processed within a month, Digha and other farmers called off the protest, but vowed to resume if the promise was not fulfilled. *—PTI*

OPERATION CY-HUNT

263 held in cybercrime sting across Kerala

KOCHI, 2 NOV

It was an ordinary Thursday morning at a nationalised bank in Maradu, Kochi, when a police team suddenly walked in and approached two college students completing a money withdrawal. To the surprise of bank staff, the officers quietly took the youngsters into custody.

Police later said the duo was arrested as part of a statewide crackdown, codenamed 'Operation Cy-Hunt,' after discovering that the money they were withdrawing was linked to a large cyber fraud racket.

Coordinated by the Cyber Operations Wing of Kerala Police, the operation mobilised over a thousand officers across the state in a single-day sweep. By the end of the drive, 263 people were arrested, 382 cases registered, and raids conducted at 714 locations. Notices were also issued to 125 individuals for further questioning.

According to police, the crackdown targeted people who received or withdrew money siphoned from victims across India through online job scams, fake trading platforms, and other cyber frauds. At the centre were 'mule accounts,' bank accounts rented out to cybercriminals for a commission.

"Most of those arrested in Kochi are youngsters, especially college students," said City Police Commissioner Putta Vimaladitya, adding that many were unaware of the money's origins. Kochi Police plan awareness drives in colleges and housing societies.

ADGP (Cyber Operations) S Sreejith said the operation marked a proactive shift. "This time, we acted before victims even realised they had been defrauded," he said.

Earlier this year, the Enforcement Directorate unearthed a related racket, arresting two men who arranged 479 mule accounts that handled Rs 718 crore in transactions. Police data show 34.8 per cent of cyber fraud cases in this year involved trading scams. *—PTI*

Kerala clears Rs 377 crore for Sabarimala roads

T'PURAM, 2 NOV

With the annual mandalam-makaravilakku pilgrimage to Sabarimala set to begin on 16 November, the Kerala government has sanctioned Rs 377.8 crore for the renovation of 82 roads across 10 districts used by Ayyappa devotees.

Finance Minister KN Balagopal said Rs 68.9 crore has been allotted for 14 roads in Thiruvananthapuram and Rs 54.2 crore for 15 roads in Kollam. Pathanamthitta, where the hill shrine is located, will get Rs 40.2 crore for six roads.

The allocations for other districts include Rs 36 crore for nine roads in Alappuzha, Rs 35.2 crore for eight roads in Kottayam, Rs 35.1 crore for five in Idukki, Rs 32.42 crore for eight in Ernakulam, Rs 44 crore for 11 in Thrissur, Rs 27.3 crore for five in Palakkad, and Rs 4.5 crore for one in Malappuram. Lakhs of devotees from across India and abroad are expected to visit the Sabarimala temple during the period. *—PTI*

- Finance Minister KN Balagopal said Rs 68.9 crore has been allotted for 14 roads in T'puram and Rs 54.2 crore for 15 roads in Kollam

BLAME IN THE AIR

Children play football near India Gate as smog engulfs the area, with the AQI remains 'very poor,' in New Delhi *PHOTO: PTI*

Delhi air quality crisis persists

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

The national capital's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category on Sunday, with several parts slipping into 'severe' zones as slow northwesterly winds limited the dispersal of pollutants, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 386, up from 303 a day earlier.

Localities such as Wazirpur (439), Rohini (409), RK Puram (418), Bawana (410) and Dwarka (401) recorded 'severe' air quality. In the NCR, Faridabad (312), Gurugram (325), Noida (301) and Ghaziabad (322) also remained in the 'very poor' range.

The Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) said wind speeds fell below 8 kmph with ventilation index values under 6,000 m²/s, both unfavourable for dispersing pollutants. Visibility dropped to 900 metres in Safdarjung and 1,300 metres in Palam due to a mix of fog and smog.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded a minimum temperature of 16.8°C and forecast clear skies with shallow fog at night.

> **Getting slight improvement in a limited area for a day or two, as is now being claimed, is really a cruel joke on the people of Delhi**
>
> -Jairam Ramesh, Congress General Secretary Incharge, Communications

Expressing concern, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta to act jointly to address the worsening air.

Calling the pollution a 'grey shroud,' she said citizens are subjected to this toxicity year after year and sought urgent measures to protect children, the elderly and those with respiratory ailments.

The AQEWS has warned that air quality is likely to remain 'very poor' till 4 November. *—Agencies*

DAY OF THE DEAD

A woman places a portrait of her loved one on a grave during the Day of the Dead at the cemetery in Tzintzuntzan, Michoacan state, Mexico. This day celebrates the lives of those who have died. The Day of the Dead is considered to be a time when the dead and the living connect with each other. It is celebrated on 1 and 2 November

PHOTO: PTI

80-yr-old Kerala teacher's global poetry classroom

Sarasamma Teacher, 80, is neither a poet nor an author, but something perhaps more vital -- a devoted conduit for Malayalam poems, ensuring they flow to a new generation.

In her retirement, she has defied her age, turning to YouTube and other online platforms to bring this rich literary tradition to a modern, global audience.

Her popular YouTube account, 'Kavitharamam' with around 1,30,000 subscribers, is one of her new classrooms for sharing the language's poetry with lovers of verse from all walks of life.

The teacher is already a well-known figure among the children who compete in the State School Kalolsavam in Malayalam poem recitation; she says most of the participants render the poems they have learnt from her YouTube channel.

"More than 75 singers have recited poems on my YouTube channel as it is growing in popularity. Both children and adults recite the poems for my viewers," Sarasamma Teacher told PTI Videos.

Her YouTube channel features recitations of close to 500 poems drawn from the works of famous Malayalam poets.

She was honoured by the Kerala chief minister for her contributions in encouraging the Malayalam language during the Official Language Week celebrations in the State Secretariat on 1 November, Kerala's 69th birthday.

Hailing from Elanji in Ernakulam district, her passion for Malayalam poetry started during her school days.

After she became a teacher, she continued teaching children Malayalam poems, introducing the great Malayalam poets to the younger generation.

"After retirement, I started having poetry classes at my house. I had a good number of children coming to me for help with reciting poems for competitions. But the classes had to be discontinued when Covid-19 struck," the teacher said.

Sarasamma Teacher

PHOTOS: SCREENGRAB; FREEPIK

- Sarasamma's YouTube channel features recitations of close to 500 poems drawn from the works of famous Malayalam poets. The government identified her contributions in popularising Malayalam poems, both old and new, at a time when poetry is slowly being sidelined by readers of literature.

She said it was then her children came to her aid, teaching her how to launch online classes and start a YouTube channel.

"I only knew how to take calls and speak on the smartphone. But then my children taught me the wide possibilities of the smartphone, and I started conducting my classes online," the Teacher said.

Now, Sarasamma Teacher has a committee that selects poems to be presented on the YouTube channel, as many new writers want their poems to be featured.

"Our committee goes through the poems in detail and selects only those that are of high quality and have literary merit," she said.

The government identified her contributions in popularising Malayalam poems, both old and new, at a time when poetry is slowly being sidelined by readers of literature.

She was honoured at a ceremony in the famous Darbar Hall of the Kerala Secretariat, alongside Dr MM Basheer, a noted linguist, critic, and writer.

In his speech, Chief Minister Vijayan said Sarasamma teacher has been training children and interested adults across generations in art forms such as Aksharaslokam, Kavyakeli, and Kavyalapanam.

Supported by her husband PN Kesavan Nair, who is also a Malayalam teacher and writer, Sarasamma Teacher vows to continue her good work as she feels poetry is the most important and beautiful form of literature available, rating it higher than novels and short stories.

She also teaches children 'Aksharaslokam', a form of poetry that features tongue-twisting words in both Malayalam & Sanskrit. *—PTI*

SALAR ساڈا

Bihar's Mokama, where two men seek political return

JD(U) candidate Anant Singh; RJD candidate Suraj Bhan Singh

PHOTO: PTI

It is 'Chhote Sarkar' versus 'Dada' in the Mokama assembly segment of Bihar, which has been witness to fierce rivalry between the two gangster-turned-politicians for decades.

'Chhote Sarkar', as JD(U) candidate Anant Singh is known in the area, had an uninterrupted run since 2005, until conviction in a Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act case in 2022 led to his disqualification.

In the ensuing by-poll, his wife Neelam Devi retained the seat for the RJD, which had given a ticket to her husband two years earlier, though acquittal in the case by the Patna High Court has led Singh to decide that he no longer needed his spouse to hold fort.

'Dada', the nickname by which Suraj Bhan Singh is known, however, remains disqualified and, hence, needs his wife Veena Devi to stand in the assembly polls on his behalf, who is in the fray on an RJD ticket.

Suraj had begun his political career in 2000, when, contesting as an independent candidate, he wrested the Mokama seat from Dilip Singh, the late elder brother of Anant, whom the locals called 'bade sarkar', and who also became a minister in the government headed by RJD President Lalu Prasad's wife Rabri Devi.

It is widely believed that Suraj's "dynamism" in helping Nitish Kumar install a government that year, after the assembly polls threw a hung assembly, got him noticed by the late Ram Vilas Paswan, his mentor to be.

Four years later, he gave up the assembly seat and became the MP from the now-abolished Ballia seat, contesting on a ticket of the Lok Janshakti Party, founded by Paswan.

Anant decided it was time for him to take the political plunge and contested the assembly polls in 2005, winning in February and October, both times as a JD(U) nominee.

It is believed that he earned the trust of Kumar as a local strongman, while the JD(U) supremo represented in the Lok Sabha the now-abolished Barh constituency, of which Mokama was a part.

Tall, powerfully built and known to wear sunglasses even indoors, Anant seeks to make light of his old rival returning to challenge him on his home turf.

"He (Suraj Bhan) has always been fickle-minded. Look at his political career. He left Mokama to become an MP from Ballia. His wife became an MP from Munger (in 2014) and five years later, his brother got elected from Nawada," said Anant, who counts on his own clout as much as on the governance track record of his benefactor, the longest-serving CM.

Flinching at the use of the term 'bahubali' (strongman), the 'Chhote Sarkar' alleged "it is the media which invents such labels. I shall win by the blessings of the people and by virtue of the good work done by Nitish Kumar".

When reminded that he had not been on best of terms with the JD(U) supremo since 2015, when he contested as an Independent, he said, "That is the past. But, you would agree that the people of Mokama vote for me, irrespective of whether I am contesting as an Independent or on the ticket of any party."

However, 'Dada', who has been in political wilderness for some time, with none of his family members in Parliament or the state legislature, believes the people are going to vote for a change, be it Mokama or the rest of Bihar.

His wife, the official candidate, asserted "Anant Singh does not know how to talk. How can he raise issues of his constituency in the assembly? On the other hand, I have experience of Parliament, where I had the opportunity to raise matters concerning seven assembly segments that fell under my Lok Sabha constituency."

She also pointed towards the "decrepitude visible in Mokama", a part of Patna district, situated around 100 km from the state capital.

"I am a daughter of Begusarai, but a daughter-in-law of Mokama. I am proud that the Nazareth Hospital here once catered to a large part of Bihar. But, today, we have no facilities, not even proper roads," the RJD candidate alleged.

The Mokama constituency has always elected a Bhumihar. But since 1990, when Dilip decided he was done with providing "assistance" to better-placed politicians, and turned the tables on one of his benefactors, the seat has belonged to a 'Bahubali'.

The future of Mokama, and eight candidates who are in the fray here, will be decided by 2.84 lakh voters on 6 November in the first phase of the polls. *—PTI*

The future of Mokama, and eight candidates who are in the fray here, will be decided by 2.84 lakh voters on 6 November in the first phase of the polls

PHOTO: PTI

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Lifestyle disorders pushing India towards kidney disease: Nephrologist

CKD is fuelled by lifestyle disorders like diabetes and hypertension and compounded by environmental and occupational factors, kidney ailments are no longer confined to the elderly or the urban elite, Dr H Sudarshan Ballal said

PHOTOS: AI, WIKIPEDIA

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is emerging as one of the country's most pressing public health concerns, a renowned nephrologist said.

CKD is fuelled by lifestyle disorders like diabetes and hypertension and compounded by environmental and occupational factors, kidney ailments are no longer confined to the elderly or the urban elite, he said.

If left unchecked, kidney disease could soon take on the proportions of an epidemic, the nephrologist said.

Talking to PTI, Dr **H Sudarshan Ballal** shared his experience of witnessing how India's renal healthcare evolved from scarcity to scale but also watched new challenges emerge with unsettling speed.

"When I returned to India in 1991 from the US, there were just 800 nephrologists in the entire country. In fact, there were more Indian nephrologists practising in the US than in India. We used to call ourselves one in a million," Ballal recalled.

Three decades later, the situation has undoubtedly improved, with thousands of specialists and advanced treatment facilities spread across the country, he said.

"The situation is less grim than it was 30 years ago. But we still haven't covered the entire spectrum of patients who need treatment. Kidney disease is very common. Every year, nearly two lakh people develop severe kidney failure, and ten times more suffer from milder forms. Unfortunately, less than 25 per cent of them get any kind of treatment," Ballal said.

While access to nephrologists and dialysis centres has grown significantly, the affordability gap remains wide. Dialysis and transplants, the only options for end-stage renal disease, continue to be beyond the means of many families.

"Affordability is still a huge issue. In the early 1990s, only about five per cent of patients had insurance. Today, over 60 per cent are covered, but even then, the cost of long-term treatment is high," he noted.

India's rising burden of kidney disease is closely tied to its status as the diabetes capital of the world, Ballal, who is also the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of Manipal Hospitals and Director of the Manipal Institute of Nephrology and Urology, stated.

- While access to nephrologists and dialysis centres has grown significantly, the affordability gap remains wide. Dialysis and transplants continue to be beyond the means of many families.

"The number one cause of chronic kidney disease globally is diabetes. So as diabetes increases, kidney disease inevitably follows. Unless we control the epidemic of lifestyle diseases, kidney disease will continue to rise. It's almost bordering on an epidemic," he said.

When asked about doctors identifying a mysterious condition called Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Origin (CKDU), increasingly seen among agricultural workers in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and parts of Karnataka, Ballal said that the condition is deeply linked to the environment and working conditions.

He said, "I am happy that you are asking me this. These are young men working long hours in the heat. Some suspect dehydration, others point to soil contamination from fertilisers or pesticides. But no single cause has been identified yet. It's not contagious, but it's deeply linked to the environment and working conditions." The nephrologist insisted that prevention must take precedence over cure.

"Clean drinking water, sanitation, and vaccinations save more lives than all corporate hospitals combined," he says. "If we strengthen primary health care, improve nutrition and public hygiene, we can prevent most of these diseases before they become life-threatening," he said.

For those already affected, he believes universal health insurance and stronger public hospitals are crucial. "No one should be denied treatment because of cost," he said, adding that "Just like Medicare or the NHS, we need systems that ensure every citizen has access to care," he said.

Despite the challenges, he is hopeful about the future. Ballal said emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), will transform the way kidney diseases are identified and managed.

"Kidney disease may not spread through infection, but it spreads through neglect of our habits, our health systems, and our priorities. Unless we act now, it will become an epidemic of our own making," he said. *—PTI*

US strike in Caribbean kills 3 'drug smugglers'

WEST PALM BEACH, 2 NOV

The US military has conducted another lethal strike on alleged drug smugglers in the Caribbean Sea, killing three people, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Saturday. He said the vessel was operated by a US-designated terrorist organisation but did not name the group. It is the 15th strike in the Caribbean or eastern Pacific since early September, bringing the death toll to at least 64. President Donald Trump has defended the operations as part of an armed conflict with drug cartels. Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro has condemned the strikes and the growing US military presence. *—PTI*

21 killed, 30 missing in Kenya landslide

NAIROBI, 2 NOV

At least 21 individuals have died and 30 are missing following a landslide in Kenya's western Rift Valley, exacerbated by heavy rains during the current short rains season. The disaster struck in the hilly region of Chesongoch in Elgeyo Marakwet County on Saturday, destroying over 1,000 homes. Several roads have been rendered impassable, prompting the government to airlift 30 severely injured survivors to a hospital in Eldoret City. Local resident Stephen Kittony recounted the terrifying moment: "I heard a deafening sound and, together with my children, rushed out of our house." Rescue efforts continue amidst the adverse weather conditions. Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen announced plans for alternative settlements for those affected. *—PTI*

With guns blazing: Trump threatens to attack Nigeria

Don flays Nigeria for 'killing' of Christians

WASHINGTON DC, 2 NOV

- Trump said he had instructed the US Department of War to prepare for potential action, warning that any strike would be "fast, vicious, and sweet".

United States President Donald Trump has warned that Washington could halt all aid and assistance to Nigeria and may even consider military action if the country fails to curb the killings of Christians.

In a strongly worded post on Truth Social, Trump said the US could go in "guns-a-blazing" should attacks on Christians by what he called Islamic terrorists continue. "If the Nigerian Government continues to allow the killing of Christians, the USA will immediately stop all aid and assistance to Nigeria, and may very well go into that now disgraced country, 'guns-a-blazing,' to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities," he wrote.

Trump said he had instructed the US Department of War to prepare for potential action, warning that any strike would be "fast, vicious, and sweet". He urged the Nigerian government to "move fast".

The warning followed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's rejection of Trump's earlier move to designate Nigeria "a country of particular concern" for allegedly failing to contain persecution of Christians, according to The Washington Post. Nigerian officials have denied claims of systematic targeting. Information Minister Mohammed Idris told Fox News the allegations were "very misleading" and rejected reports that tens of thousands of Christians had been killed.

Trump claimed Christianity faces an "existential threat" in Nigeria, citing violence between Muslim and Christian communities. He blamed "radical Islamists" for the killings and directed two federal lawmakers, Congressman Riley Moore and House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole, to investigate the issue.

"I am asking Congressman Riley Moore, together with Chairman Tom Cole and the House Appropriations Committee, to immediately look into this matter and report back to me," he said.

He added that "thousands of Christians are being killed", asserting that when any group faces such slaughter, "something must be done". *—PTI*

Trump to host Syrian President at White House

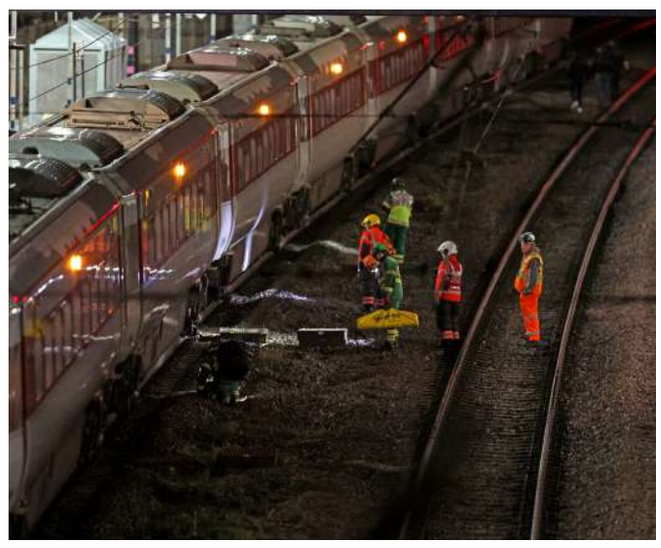
West Palm Beach, 2 Nov

President Donald Trump will host Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa at the White House on 10 November, an administration official said, marking the first visit by a Syrian leader. Trump met al-Sharaa in Saudi Arabia in May, the first encounter between the nations' leaders in 25 years. Al-Sharaa, formerly known as Abu Mohammed al-Golani, once had a 10-million-dollar US bounty and was imprisoned by US forces in Iraq. He is expected to sign an agreement to join the US-led coalition against ISIS. The visit comes amid a fragile Israel Hamas ceasefire.

'Intentional' explosion rocks Harvard School

Boston, 2 Nov

There was an explosion early Saturday at Harvard Medical School that appears to have been intentional, but no one was injured, authorities said. A university police officer who responded to a fire alarm tried to stop two unidentified people who ran from the Goldenson Building before going to where the alert was triggered, university police said in a statement. The Boston Fire Department determined that the explosion was intentional and officers did not find additional devices in a sweep of the building, police said.



Emergency personnel inspect a train at the Huntingdon train station in England after people were stabbed on Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

10 injured in mass stabbing attack on UK train

LONDON, 2 NOV

Ten people were injured in a stabbing attack on a UK train on Saturday night, prompting a "major incident" declaration and the involvement of counter-terrorism police. Nine victims are believed to have life-threatening injuries after armed officers stormed the train at Huntingdon station in Cambridgeshire and made two arrests.

A man carrying a large knife was reportedly shot with a Taser by police after what witnesses described as a bloody rampage shortly after the train left Peterborough. The British Transport Police (BTP) confirmed that ten people had been taken to hospital following the multiple stabbings.

The London-bound high-speed train had been travelling from Doncaster to King's Cross. Cambridgeshire Constabulary said it received reports at 7.39pm on Saturday of multiple stabbings on board. Armed officers stopped the train at Huntingdon, where two men were arrested and the injured were transferred to hospital.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned the "appalling incident" and urged the public to follow police guidance. Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood confirmed that two suspects were in custody. Shadow home secretary Chris Philp described the attack as a "brutal mass attack".

The East of England Ambulance Service deployed a large-scale emergency response involving numerous ambulances, Hazardous Area Response teams and critical care crews from the East Anglian and Essex and Herts Air Ambulances. Multiple patients were airlifted to hospital.

Roads around Huntingdon and services on the London and North Eastern Railway network experienced significant disruption. A witness told Sky News he saw a man moving through his carriage saying he had been stabbed and was "extremely bloodied". *—PTI*

Authorities said the blast was likely accidental, possibly caused by a faulty transformer *PHOTO: PTI*

Fire & blast at store in Mexico kill 23

MEXICO CITY, 2 NOV

A fire and explosion at a convenience store in northwestern Mexico on Saturday killed at least 23 people, including children, and injured 12 others, state authorities said.

The fire occurred in downtown Hermosillo, the capital of Sonora state, Sonora Gov. Alfonso Durazo said in a video posted on social media.

Sonora Attorney General Gustavo Salas Chávez provided the death toll and said the injured were taken to six hospitals in Hermosillo.

Salas Chávez said preliminary investigations showed the deaths were caused by "inhalation of toxic gases."

"At this time we have no indication that leads us to presume the fire was intentional," he said, noting authorities had not ruled out any line of investigation. Images circulating on social media show a massive fire engulfing the Waldo's store. *—PTI*

Russia launches nuclear sub to carry doomsday drone

MOSCOW, 2 NOV

Russia has launched its latest nuclear submarine, the Khabarovsk, designed to carry the Poseidon nuclear drone that Russian officials and state media describe as a "doomsday missile" capable of wiping out coastal nations. Defence Minister Andrei Belousov oversaw the launch at the Sevmash shipyards in Severodvinsk, accompanied by Naval Chief Admiral Alexander Moiseyev and senior shipbuilding officials.

Belousov said the heavy nuclear-powered cruiser would strengthen Russia's ability to secure its maritime borders and protect national interests across the world's oceans. Designed by the Rubin Central Design Bureau, the submarine is equipped for modern underwater warfare, including robotic systems. The launch follows Russia's recent test of the nuclear-powered Poseidon drone, which President Vladimir Putin confirmed had been deployed from a mother-submarine. Senior officials, including Dmitry Medvedev, have referred to the drone as a "Doomsday missile", while Duma Defence Committee chair Andrei Kartapolov said it could destroy entire coastal nations.

Meanwhile, in Ukraine's Odesa region, two people were killed early on Sunday when Russian drones struck a car park on the Black Sea coast, the State Emergency Service said. Three others were injured. Russia also intensified strikes on Ukraine's energy grid, hitting the Zaporizhzhia region with drones and missiles and leaving nearly 60,000 people without power, according to regional governor Ivan Fedorov.

Ukraine's national energy operator, Ukrenergo, said rolling power cuts were implemented across several regions as winter approaches. *—PTI*

Designed by the Rubin Central Design Bureau, the submarine is equipped for modern underwater warfare including robotic systems *PHOTO: X*

Pak reopens Torkham border amid truce with Afghan

ISLAMABAD, 2 NOV

- On Friday alone, approximately 10,700 individuals returned to Afghanistan via the Chaman border, as reported by The Express Tribune

The Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan has reopened after nearly two weeks of closure, allowing the return of Afghan refugees following deadly clashes last month. According to officials, the reopening comes as a ceasefire agreement formalised in Doha on 19th October remains intact.

The repatriation process, previously suspended since 11th October, has resumed at both Torkham and Chaman crossings. On Friday alone, approximately 10,700 individuals returned to Afghanistan via the Chaman border, as reported by The Express Tribune. To date, around 1.56 million Afghan nationals have returned under Pakistan's repatriation initiative.

While the Torkham crossing is now open for refugees, trade remains suspended. Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi stated, "The border remains closed for trade for now," emphasising that the resumption of commercial activities would depend on the security situation. Deputy Commissioner Bilal Rao confirmed that the operations had resumed smoothly to assist Afghan nationals. The temporary shelters, food supplies, and medical assistance have been arranged to ensure a "dignified" return. *—ANI*

Canada and Philippines sign defence pact

MANILA, 2 NOV

In a significant move to bolster military collaboration, Canada and the Philippines have signed a defence agreement aimed at enhancing joint combat drills and strengthening security alliances in the face of China's assertive actions in the contested South China Sea. The pact was formalised by **Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr** and his Canadian counterpart, David McGuinty, during a closed-door meeting in Manila.

McGuinty stated that the agreement would facilitate "joint military training, information-sharing and cooperation in addressing emergencies, including responding to natural disasters." Teodoro emphasised its importance for a rules-based international order, declaring, "Who is hegemonic? Who wants to expand their territory in the world? China." This agreement marks the fourth defence pact signed by the Philippines under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., following similar pacts with Japan and New Zealand. *—PTI*

Hurricane Melissa devastates Jamaica's farmers & fishers

KINGSTON, 2 NOV

Hurricane Melissa has inflicted severe damage on Jamaica's agricultural sector, leading to substantial losses for farmers and fishers. Among the affected is Prince Davis, a fisher from the small community of White House in Westmoreland, whose 15-metre boat suffered extensive damage, and whose family home was destroyed. "It's going to be very rough," Davis lamented. "With the damage now, no one will be buying products."

In Amity, Denver Thorpe lost 15 acres of mango trees and two greenhouses.

"There's absolutely nothing," he stated. The hurricane, with winds up to 298 kph, has claimed at least 19 lives in Jamaica, and affects tens of thousands of fishers and farmers who are vital for local food security.

Lola Castro, regional director for the World Food Programme, noted, "I would say every (crop) that was on the path has been damaged." *—PTI*

KING TO FUND ANDREW'S PAYOUT

'Andrew hoped to meet Epstein after latter's prison release'

LONDON, 2 NOV

Newly released emails show Andrew Mountbatten Windsor told Jeffrey Epstein "it would be good to catch up in person" months after the convicted sex offender was released from prison in 2009. The correspondence, published on Friday, came just two days after Andrew was stripped of his titles and removed from the official roll of the peerage as Buckingham Palace moved to contain the damage from his escalating scandals.

Epstein, jailed in July 2009 for soliciting prostitution from a minor, suggested in the emails on 15 April 2010 that Andrew meet former JP Morgan executive Jes Staley, who was banned from the UK banking sector for life in June for misleading regulators over his ties to Epstein.

The revelations coincide with confirmation that Andrew, 65, is being sent into internal exile at King Charles III's private Sandringham Estate, following years of controversy over his long friendship with Epstein. Andrew denies all allegations of misconduct, including claims by Virginia Roberts Giuffre that she had sex with him at 17.

Andrew is being evicted from Royal Lodge, where he has lived for more than 20 years under a 75-year lease signed in 2003. He spent 7.5 million pounds refurbishing the property and pays only a symbolic peppercorn rent. The move will not be immediate as he sorts possessions and divides shared items with his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, who will not relocate with him. Charles will privately fund Andrew's move and stipend, aiming to distance the monarchy from public anger. Several Sandringham properties are possible replacements, including Park House, York Cottage, Gardens House or The Folly, with a final decision yet to be made. *—Agencies*

Andrew is being evicted from Royal Lodge, where he lived for 20 years, amid fallout from his ties to sex offender Jeffrey Epstein *PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA*

Canada flays Khalistani stir against minister Anita

TORONTO, 2 NOV

Canadian ministers have condemned a protest outside the Indian consulate in Toronto in which demonstrators displayed an image of two men firing at photos of Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The display, organised by Sikh extremist groups associated with the Khalistani movement, drew widespread political outrage.

Secretary of State for International Development Randeep S Sarai said such acts "undermine democracy" and have "no place" in Canada. Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree called the demonstration "absolutely vile and unacceptable" and said that those responsible for inciting hate and violence must be held accountable.

Footage from the protest, posted by an independent journalist, showed placards, Khalistani flags and mock executions depicting the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Khalistani supporter Sarbjit Kaur criticised Anand for seeking improved ties with India, claiming she was "not making people feel safe".

Anand visited India last month as part of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy, following a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the G7 Summit. The visit is part of efforts to stabilise relations after tensions escalated in 2023 when then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India of involvement in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a claim New Delhi rejected as politically motivated.

Both countries reinstated their high commissioners in August, and security-level talks have resumed as part of the diplomatic reset. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Global leaders to visit Delhi for 17th GRIHA Summit

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Global leaders are set to gather in New Delhi on 3-4 November for the 17th GRIHA Summit, themed 'Innovate to Act for a Climate Resilient World', to drive scalable climate solutions for India's built environment. Organised by the GRIHA Council, the summit will feature over 50 eminent speakers across four plenary and four technical sessions, along with three innovation-driven exhibition pavilions. Discussions will focus on policy frameworks, technology advancements, market mechanisms, and partnerships to strengthen the resilience of cities, infrastructure, and communities. The summit will foster dialogue on the need to integrate resilience, efficiency, and circularity as central pillars of sustainable development. An exhibition showcasing sustainable technologies and products will be held. —*PTI*

Royal Enfield reports 13% rise in October sales

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Motorcycle maker Royal Enfield on Sunday reported a 13 per cent rise in total sales at 1,24,951 units in October as compared to 110,574 units in the same month in 2024. Domestic sales were at 116,844 units as against 1,01,886 units in October 2024, up 15 per cent. Exports were, however, down 7 per cent at 8,107 units as compared to 8,688 units in the year-ago period, said the company, a part of Eicher Motors Group. Eicher Motors Ltd Managing Director and Royal Enfield CEO B Govindarajan said the festive spirit translated into an overwhelming response from customers across the country. Over 2.49 lakh motorcycles were sold during this period. —*PTI*

Tea production falls by 5.9% in Sept 2025

KOLKATA, 2 NOV

Tea production during September 2025 has declined 5.9 per cent at 159.92 million kilogrammes as against 169.93 million kilogrammes in the similar previous period. According to Tea Board data, production of the crop in Assam during September 2025 remained almost stagnant at 94.76 million kilogrammes as compared to 94.03 million kilogrammes in the same period in 2024. Production of the crop in West Bengal declined to 40.03 million kilogrammes in September 2025 from 48.35 million kilogrammes in the same month in 2024. In north India tea production fell to 138.65 million kilogrammes in September 2025. In South India, tea production marginally declined to 21.27 million kilogrammes in September 2025. —*PTI*

Oyo extends application end date of bonus issue

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Travel tech platform Oyo on Sunday announced that it has extended the application deadline for the bonus issue, linked to its potential IPO, for its unlisted equity shareholders from 1 November to 7 November. The company said it has received feedback during the postal ballot process and decided to provide investors ample time to choose the bonus option that suits them. Shareholders will get one preference share for every 6,000 equity shares held. They can either opt for a fixed conversion, where each such share becomes one equity share, or a milestone-linked option, with the milestone being the appointment of bankers for its potential IPO during the current financial year. —*PTI*

Foreign investors withdraw Rs 14,610 crore in October

In the debt market, FPIs invested about Rs 3,507 crore

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

After withdrawing money for the past three months, foreign investors have turned net buyers with a net infusion of Rs 14,610 crore in October, supported by resilient corporate earnings, a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, and hopes of US-India trade talks materialising soon.

This turnaround comes after a prolonged spell of persistent outflows, with FPIs pulling out Rs 23,885 crore in September, Rs 34,990 crore in August, and Rs 17,700 crore in July, data from depositories showed.

The renewed inflow in October, therefore, marks a notable shift in sentiment, reflecting fresh confidence among global investors towards Indian markets.

Explaining the change, Himanshu Srivastava, Principal, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said the reversal was driven by improved risk sentiment and attractive valuations, following the recent correction and resilient corporate earnings across key sectors. He added that the turnaround also coincided with easing inflation, expectations of a softening interest rate cycle, and supportive domestic reforms, such as GST rationalisation, which further strengthened investor confidence.

- The renewed inflow in October, therefore, marks a notable shift in sentiment, reflecting fresh confidence among global investors towards Indian markets.

Looking ahead, Morningstar's Srivastava said the sustainability of this trend will depend on continued macro stability, a benign global environment, and consistent corporate earnings in the coming quarters. With those pressures now easing and India and US signalling progress on trade negotiations, sentiment appears poised for further improvement.

However, he cautioned that the quantum of FPI flows will still depend on the timing of the trade deal, the remainder of the Q2 FY26 results, and any further easing signals from the US Federal Reserve.

Despite the recent uptick in equity inflows, FPIs have still withdrawn around Rs 1.4 lakh crore so far in 2025.

Meanwhile, in the debt market, FPIs invested about Rs 3,507 crore under the general limit while withdrawing Rs 427 crore through the voluntary retention route in October. —*PTI*

HOLIDAY-SHORTENED WEEK

Global trends, data & earnings to guide markets: Analyst

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Quarterly earnings, macroeconomic indicators and global market trends are expected to steer Indian equities in a holiday-shortened week, analysts said.

Stock exchanges will remain closed on Wednesday for Guru Nanak Gurpurab.

Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice-President, Research at Religare Broking Ltd, said the week would remain eventful with several key data releases and major corporate earnings lined up.

On the macroeconomic front, focus will be on the final readings of the HSBC manufacturing, services and composite PMI data, which are expected to provide a clearer picture of domestic growth momentum.

Several index heavyweights are scheduled to announce quarterly results, including Bharti Airtel, Titan Company, Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports.

Global developments, particularly trade negotiations and trends in major international markets, will also be closely monitored for directional cues.

Foreign investor activity will be another key driver, after overseas funds turned net buyers in October, —*PTI*

Mcap of 4 top firms jump by Rs 95,447 crore

Four of India's 10 most valued companies together gained Rs 95,447.38 crore in market capitalisation last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the top performer. Reliance's valuation rose by Rs 47,431.32 crore to Rs 20,11,602.06 crore, while State Bank of India added Rs 30,091.82 crore to reach Rs 8,64,908.87 crore. Bharti Airtel's value increased by Rs 14,540.37 crore to Rs 11,71,554.56 crore, and LIC gained Rs 3,383.87 crore to Rs 5,65,897.54 crore. However, six major firms together lost Rs 91,685.94 crore in value. Bajaj Finance saw the steepest fall of Rs 29,090.12 crore, followed by ICICI Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank and TCS. —*PTI*

Adani Solar ships 15K MW solar modules

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Adani Solar has achieved a significant milestone by shipping over 15,000 megawatts (MW) of solar modules in both domestic and international markets, becoming the first and fastest Indian manufacturer to do so. Out of the total shipments, 10,000MW were deployed within India, while 5,000 MW were exported, equivalent to 28 million modules covering nearly 7,500 football fields.

Around 70 per cent of these modules were produced using Adani's India-made solar cells, bolstering the company's commitment to the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. The firm plans to more than double its production capacity from 4,000MW to 10,000MW by the next financial year and aims to ship another 15,000MW in the forthcoming years.

Adani Solar is the only Indian manufacturer recognised among the world's top 10 solar module producers by research firm Wood Mackenzie. According to a recent report, India's solar module manufacturing capacity is expected to exceed 125 GW by 2025, which is over three times the domestic market demand of around 40 GW.

"Our 15,000 MW milestone reflects Adani Solar's strong commitment to India's energy independence and clean energy future," a company spokesperson stated. The initiative has enabled 5 million homes to be powered with affordable solar energy and has avoided 60 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. Adani Solar is positioned as a key player in the transition to sustainable energy independence. —*PTI*

'PATENT ACT OVER COMPETITION ACT'

NCLAT says CCI has no power to examine patent issues

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Appellate tribunal NCLAT has said the fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India has no power to examine into the disputes related to patent matters.

Dismissing an appeal against a CCI order, in which the regulator had closed a complaint against Swiss pharma major Vifor International (AG), a two-member NCLAT bench said the 'Patent Act will prevail over the Competition Act'.

Citing the earlier judgments, NCLAT said: "Considering the judgment of the Delhi High Court in the case of Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson (PUBL) and the Supreme Court in the SLP No. 25026/2023, it is apparent that the CCI lacks the power to examine the allegations made against Vifor International (AG)."

NCLAT, which is an appellate authority over the orders passed by CCI, said Vifor International had the patent for Ferric Carboxymaltose (FCM) injection, which is required for the treatment of Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA).

"The Patent Act will prevail over the Competition Act in the facts of this case, as the subject matter of contention is FCM, which was developed and patented by Respondent No 2 (Vifor International). There is no dispute that Respondent No. 2 held the said patent at the relevant time," said the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

NCLAT, in a 14-page-long order, noted that Section 3(5) of the Competition Act provides protection to a person holding a patent to restrain any infringement of or to impose reasonable conditions, as may be necessary for protecting their rights.

NCLAT order came over an appeal filed by one Swapan Dey, who is the CEO of a hospital providing free dialysis services to patients on behalf of the Government through a Private Pubic Partnership under Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP).

He submitted that it is common for the patients under dialysis to develop Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA), for which the injection referred to as Ferric Carboxymaltose (FCM) injection is required for treatment.

Dey alleged that due to the anti-competitive and abusive conduct of Vifor International (AG), Switzerland, the FCM injections are neither accessible nor affordable to patients in large. —*PTI*

Festive season boosts petrol sales; diesel remains flat

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

India's petrol sales surged to a five-month high in October on festive travel boost, but diesel consumption remained flattish, defying the trend, according to preliminary industry data.

Petrol consumption rose 7 per cent year-on-year to 3.65 million tonnes in October, as the onset of festival season increased demand for the fuel. The sales were higher month-on-month as well when compared to 3.4 million tonnes in September.

Diesel - the most consumed fuel in the country, accounting for almost 40 per cent of the fuel consumption basket - posted a marginal drop in sales at 7.6 million tonnes in October compared to 7.64 million tonnes in the same month of the previous year.

Historically, diesel consumption dipped with the advent of the rainy season in June, as demand for fuel to run irrigation pumps dropped and vehicular movements slowed. But sales rebounded from October as rains receded and the festive season fuelled a rise in trucking.

While petrol consumption was 16.3 per cent more than in October 2023, diesel sales this year were lower than the 7.63 million tonnes of demand in October 2023, according to the monthly flash report of the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Jet fuel or ATF consumption continued to rebound, rising by 1.6 per cent to 7,69,000 tonnes in October. The sales were 11.11 per cent more than in October 2023. Since 2019, ATF consumption has grown at a 1.65 per cent CAGR.

One of the primary reasons for the surge is household demand for the fuel. —*PTI*

India's forex reserves decline by $6.9 billion in October

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

India's foreign exchange reserves saw a reduction of $6.925 billion in the week ending 24 October, now standing at $695.355 billion, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India's latest 'Weekly Statistical Supplement'. This decrease was attributed to declines in both foreign currency assets and gold reserves.

Despite the drop, India's forex reserves are still close to the record high of $704.89 billion reached in September 2024. The data indicates that foreign currency assets, which constitute the largest portion of the reserves, fell by $3.862 billion to $566.548 billion. Meanwhile, gold reserves decreased by $3.010 billion.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, following the recent monetary policy review, expressed confidence in the resilience of the nation's external sector, stating, "The foreign exchange reserves are sufficient to cover more than 11 months of merchandise imports."

In 2023, India added approximately $58 billion to its forex reserves after experiencing a cumulative decline of $71 billion in 2022. The reserves grew by over $20 billion in 2024 and have increased by about $46 billion in 2025 so far. —*ANI*

EXPERTS SEEK TECH OVERHAUL AFTER EHV TRANSMISSION TOWERS COLLAPSE

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Power industry experts have called on utilities to create or upgrade digital twins of transmission lines to simulate wind loads, terrain impact, and environmental stressors, allowing early detection of weaknesses.

The advice follows a government committee's finding that 75 extra high voltage (EHV) transmission towers collapsed between January and June 2025, largely due to changing wind intensity linked to climate change. The committee has instructed utilities to strengthen maintenance and monitoring practices.

Ranjeet Mehta, CEO and Secretary General of PHDCCI, said utilities should adopt digital twin models for critical transmission corridors to predict risks more accurately. Manish Dabkara, CMD of EKI Energy Services, added that tracking tower condition, load and weather exposure enables predictive rather than reactive maintenance.

Piyush Goyal, Co-founder and CEO of Volks Energie, stressed the need for training in climate-resilient design and digital monitoring. —*PTI*

KARNATAKA WILL GAIN 10.7%

GST revenue in FY26 to exceed budget estimates, says SBI

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

The Goods and Services (GST) revenue for the Financial Year 2026 (FY26) will still be higher than budgeted collections, according to SBI Research.

The report projects that even after accounting for similar gains and losses across states following tax rationalisation measures, Goods and Services Tax (GST) receipts in FY26 are likely to surpass the government's budget estimates.

"We project GST revenue for FY26 will still be higher than budgeted GST collections," the report said.

- The projections are based on the growth rate assumptions released by the GST Council, SBI Research noted.

The projections are based on the growth rate assumptions released by the GST Council, SBI Research noted.

The report added that most of the states experience positive gains for the entire fiscal post rationalisation.

The GST rate rationalisation, which was introduced in September 2025 provides two-tier structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, along with a 0 per cent slab (exempt) and a new 40 per cent demerit rate for luxury and sin goods.

In its observation, the report noted that Maharashtra is projected to gain by 6 per cent while Karnataka will gain by 10.7 per cent.

"Thus, overall states will remain net gainers post GST rationalisation," the report added.

Evidence from earlier rounds of GST rate changes, such as those in July 2018 and October 2019, suggests that rationalisation does not necessarily weaken revenue collections.

Instead, the evidence points to a temporary adjustment phase followed by stronger inflows.

The report added that while an immediate reduction in rates can cause a short-term dip of around 3-4 per cent month-on-month (roughly Rs 5,000 crore, or an annualized Rs 60,000 crore), revenues typically rebound with sustained growth of 5-6 per cent per month. —*ANI*

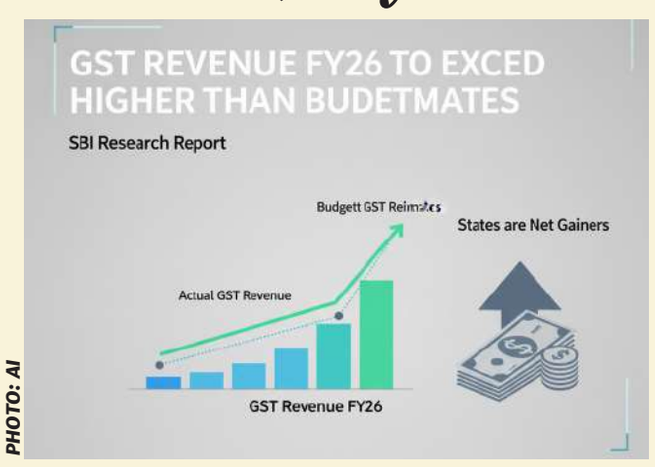


PHOTO: AI

PHOTO: PTI

Jamieson, Sodhi in NZ squad for T20I series against WI

AUCKLAND, 2 NOV

Injury-prone pacer Kyle Jamieson and spinner Ish Sodhi on Sunday made their way back into the New Zealand squad for the T20I series against West Indies beginning here on Wednesday. Uncapped all-rounder Nathan Smith has also been included in the 14-member squad and could make his T20I debut, after being a part of the New Zealand side that played Sri Lanka last season. Jamieson is making a comeback after being ruled out of the ODI series against England, while Sodhi is back for the five-match T20I series after featuring against Australia in October. The series will be crucial as coach Rob Walter will name his preliminary squad for the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka early next year.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PCB

Babar overtakes Virat to break record for most 50s

LAHORE, 2 NOV

Pakistan's Babar Azam overtook Virat Kohli to break the record for the most 50+ scores in T20Is when he crossed the half-century mark against South Africa at Lahore on Saturday. The batter crossed 50 for the 40th time in international cricket, taking him past Kohli, the previous record-holder with 39. Babar has 37 half-centuries and three centuries in T20Is. Babar currently has 4302 runs in T20Is at an average of 39.83. He is the leading run-scorer in T20Is, having overtaken Rohit Sharma in the second match of the series to ascend to the summit of the run-scoring charts in the format. However, he has not featured as regularly for Pakistan in recent times, having missed the Asia Cup and only returning for the South Africa series.—*PTI*

Miyu Yamashita wins LPGA Maybank C'ship

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 NOV

Women's British Open winner Miyu Yamashita of Japan has won the LPGA's Maybank Championship in a three-way playoff Sunday for her second career title in only her first full year on the tour. The 24-year-old golfer sealed victory with a birdie on the first playoff hole, while three-round leader Hye-Jin Choi of South Korea and Australia's Hannah Green could only manage pars. The win adds the Maybank title to Yamashita's maiden major triumph in August. The Japanese player carded the day's equal lowest round of 65 to swiftly climb up a congested leaderboard to 18-under 270 at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club course.—*PTI*

NZ batter Kane Williamson announces T20I retirement

AUCKLAND, 2 NOV

Charismatic batter and former New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson on Sunday called time on his T20 International career days before the commencement of a five-match series against the touring West Indies.

Williamson, who played 93 T20I games for New Zealand, was recently appointed the strategic advisor for the IPL franchise Lucknow Super Giants for the 2026 season.

Following the announcement, the 35-year-old top-order batter was not included in the 14-member T20I squad for the series against the West Indies beginning here on Wednesday.

CHARISMATIC BATTER

Williamson departs as New Zealand's second-highest run-scorer in men's T20Is, with 2575 runs at an average of 33. His record as captain and opener stands out as truly exceptional

- Matches played: 93 T20Is for Kane Williamson from 2011 to 2025
- Runs scored: 2,575 at an average of 33.44
- Highest score: 95 against India in January 2020
- Half-centuries: 18 (no centuries in T20Is)
- Matches captained: 75 for New Zealand, including the T20 World Cup final in 2021 and semi-final appearances in 2016 and 2022

and a highest score of 95.

The cricketer, who has more than 19,000 runs across formats, had made his T20I debut in 2011 and went on to lead the side on 75 occasions, including captaining them to two T20 World Cup semifinals, in 2016 and 2022.

There's so much T20 talent there, and the next period will be important to get cricket into these guys and get them ready for the World Cup."

He congratulated skipper Mitchell Santner for the upcoming series.

"Mitch is a brilliant captain and leader he's really come into his own with this team. It's now their time to push the BLACKCAPS forward in this format, and I'll be supporting from afar."

New Zealand's all-time leading run-getter added that he had clarity about his ODI and Test future, with his immediate focus being the preparation for the three Tests against West Indies, beginning in Christchurch on 2 December.

"I've got such deep care for this team," he said. —*PTI*

"It's something that I've loved being a part of for a long period of time, and I'm so grateful for the memories and experiences," Williamson said. *PHOTO: PTI*

3rd T20I: Sundar stars in India's series levelling win

Focused on execution: Arshdeep reflects on POTM show vs Aus

HOBART, 2 NOV

Washington Sundar enhanced his reputation as a T20 hitter with India batting in top gear through the innings to comfortably chase down a target of 187 for a series-leveling five-wicket win over Australia here on Sunday. This is the first time that Australia has lost a T20 International at the Ninja Oval, earlier known as Bellerive Oval.Tim David (74 off 38) bludgeoned the Indian bowling attack to take Australia to 186 for six after the visitors opted to bat.With the firepower India possesses, they were expected to overhaul the target, but Nathan Ellis (3/36) made their job tougher with his sharp and testing spells. India eventually got home in 18.3 overs. Abhishek Sharma (25 off 16) once again produced a flurry of boundaries in the powerplay before skipper Suryakumar Yadav (24 off 11), Tilak Varma (29 off 26), Axar Patel (17 off 12), and Washington (49 not out off 23) did their bit.

Playing his first game of the series, India's leading wicket taker in the format removed the dangerous Travis Head and Josh Inglis to leave Australia at 14 for two. However, India's early advantage was negated by David (74 off 38), who targeted every Indian bowler in an exemplary show of pow- er-hitting. Four of his five sixes came down the ground, while one was a slap over cover off Axar Patel. Following his dismissal, the seasoned Marcus Stoinis (64 off 39) stepped up on the offensive to take Australia to a competitive total. The incoming delivery to Owen, flicked through the fingers, was a peach.Arshdeep and Bumrah closed the innings well for the visitors.

Pacer Arshdeep Singh finally found a place in India's playing XI in the 3rd T20I against Australia at Hobart and immediately showed his prowess when he snapped up 3 wickets, which helped the Men in Blue waltz to a 5-wicket win and level the series 1-1.

The Punjab pacer accounted for the wickets of Travis Head, Josh Inglis, and Marcus Stoinis as Australia posted 186/6, which India chased down in 18.3 overs thanks to Washington Sundar's 49.

"When someone is coming hard at you, there's always a chance to pick up wickets. And when someone like Bumrah is bowling from the other end, batters often take more risks against me, which gives me wicket-taking opportunities," Arshdeep said after the match where he won the Player of the Match trophy. India 188 for 5 (Washington 49*, Ellis 3-36) beat Australia 186 for 6 (David 74, Stoinis 64, Arshdeep 3-35) by five wickets. —*PTI*

Washington Sundar and Pacer Arshdeep Singh *PHOTO: PTI*

GROUP B RANJI TROPHY

Nair smashes a double century for K'taka against Kerala

Karun Nair *PHOTO: PTI*

T'PURAM, 2 NOV

Experienced batter Karun Nair and promising Ravichandran Smaran made double hundreds as Karnataka gained the upper hand over Kerala on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B match here on Sunday.

Karun (233, 389 balls, 25x4, 2x6) and Smaran (220 not out, 390 balls, 16x4, 3x6) shared a massive stand of 343 runs for the fourth wicket as Karnataka declared their first innings at 586 for five.

Karnataka pacers Vidwath Kaverappa and Vysakh Vijayakumar then struck with the new ball to reduce Kerala to 21 for three at stumps. The hosts still trail by 565 runs. Karun, overnight 142, continued to pile runs in domestic cricket after getting dropped from the India squad post the tour to England.

This was his second straight three-digit score after making an unbeaten 174 against Goa at Shimoga a few days back.

Smaran, who started the day on 88, hit his first hundred of the season and then swelled into a double ton, second across 11 First-Class matches.Karnataka and Kerala both need an outright win to reach the upper echelons of the points table after two underwhelming outings in the first two rounds. Karnataka: 586/5 declared in 167 overs (Karun Nair 233, Ravichandran Smaran 220 not out, KL Srijith 65; NP Basil 2/101) vs Kerala: 21/3 in 10 overs (Vidwath Kaverappa 2/7) —*PTI*

Pant's 90, late-order grit carry India A to 3-wicket win

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Around skipper Rishabh Pant's glittering central act of 90, late order batters played dogged little knocks as India A registered a fighting three-wicket win over South Africa A in the first four-day match here Sunday.

India A now leads the two-match series 1-0, and the second match will be played at the BCCI CoE grounds from next Thursday.

Starting from a rather unsteady 119 for four overnight, the India A were served well early by Pant (90, 113b, 11x4, 4x6) and Ayush Badoni (34, 47 balls), who added 63 runs in 12 overs.

India needed 166 runs when the day began to reach the target of 275, but Pant and Badoni adopted an aggressive approach to whittle down the target.

Pant smashed pacer Okuhle Cele for a six in the second ball of the day, and followed that one-handed shot with two guided fours to third man region. Cele conceded 14 runs in the day's first over.

It set the tone for the rest of their fifth-wicket alliance as runs flowed in at six runs an over.

At this stage, the South Africans realised the folly of bowling fuller length and increased the percentage of short-pitched deliveries.

Already hurried by a couple of snorters, Pant did not have the required time to execute a pull off Tiaan Van Vuuren, and Lesego Senokwane took the catch rushing in from second slip.

It was a huge relief for Senokwane as he had dropped Pant on 80 off Prenelan Subrayen behind forward short leg. —*PTI*

Canadian teen Mboko wins Hong Kong Open

MILAN, 30 OCT

Victoria Mboko won the second WTA title of her career as the 19-year-old outlasted the more experienced Cristina Bucsa in the final of the Hong Kong Open on Sunday.

Mboko overpowered the Spaniard 7-5, 6-7 (9/11), 6-2 at Victoria Park to add the Hong Kong crown to her breakout victory at her home Canadian Open in August.

Mboko, who is at a career-high 21 in the world, defeated the 2021 US Open runner-up and fellow Canadian Leylah Fernandez in three sets in Saturday's semifinal. Against the 27-year-old Bucsa, who is ranked 68, Mboko's big serve and clubbing ground strokes gradually wore down her opponent over nearly three hours.

"It's been an incredible week," said the teenager, who was ranked 350 at the end of last year and had her father watching in the crowd. —*PTI*

INDIA VS SA FINAL

Kaur breaks record for most runs in Women's ODI WC knockouts

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

Harmanpreet Kaur broke the record for the most runs scored in Women's ODI World Cup knockouts during the 2025 edition final between India and South Africa at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Sunday.

The Indian skipper scored 331 runs in four knockout games, surpassing the previous record held by Australia's Belinda Clark, who had 330 runs in seven matches.

The right-handed batter, however, was dismissed soon after, falling on 20 off 29 in the summit clash.

MOST RUNS IN WOMEN'S ODI WC

Her unbeaten 171 in the 2017 semifinal against Australia remains the highest score in a Women's ODI World Cup knockout fixture

- Harmanpreet Kaur (IND) - 331
- Belinda Clark (AUS) - 330
- Alyssa Healy (AUS) - 309
- Nat Sciver-Brunt (ENG) - 281
- Debbie Hockley (NZ) - 240

South Africa claw back after Shafali's blazing 87

South Africa clawed their way back in the Women's World Cup final against India with a splendid show in the middle overs through Ayabonga Khaka and Nonkululeko Mlaba after Shafali Verma's blistering knock had given India a flying start, here on Sunday.

Half-centuries from Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma helped India post 298 for seven at the end of its 50 overs. This is the second-highest total posted in the final of a Women's ODI World Cup.

Just when her partnership with Deepti Sharma was beginning to take shape before the final 10 overs, Mlaba gave her side the breakthrough.

Drafted in for the semifinal against Australia after Pratika Rawal's injury, Shafali continued her dream run with a sparkling 87 off 78 balls, her first half-century in more than three years after South Africa opted to bowl. With vice-captain Smriti Mandhana (45), Shafali added 104 for the opening wicket to give India a rousing start, scoring at nearly seven runs per over following a two-hour delay due to a wet outfield. —*PTI*

Harmanpreet Kaur *PHOTO: PTI*

Hylo Open: Unnati bows out, Indian challenge ends

SAARBRUCKEN, 2 NOV

Rising shuttler Unnati Hooda suffered a straight-game loss against top-seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia in the women's singles semifinals to draw curtains on India's campaign at the USD 475,000 Hylo Open here. The 18-year-old from Rohtak was impressive this week, but she couldn't match the speed and accuracy of Wardani, losing 7-21, 13-21 in a 35-minute contest Saturday night. Unnati was part of the Indian team that won its first-ever medal a bronze at the BWF World Junior Mixed Team Championships in Guwahati earlier last month. —*PTI*

PREMIER LEAGUE

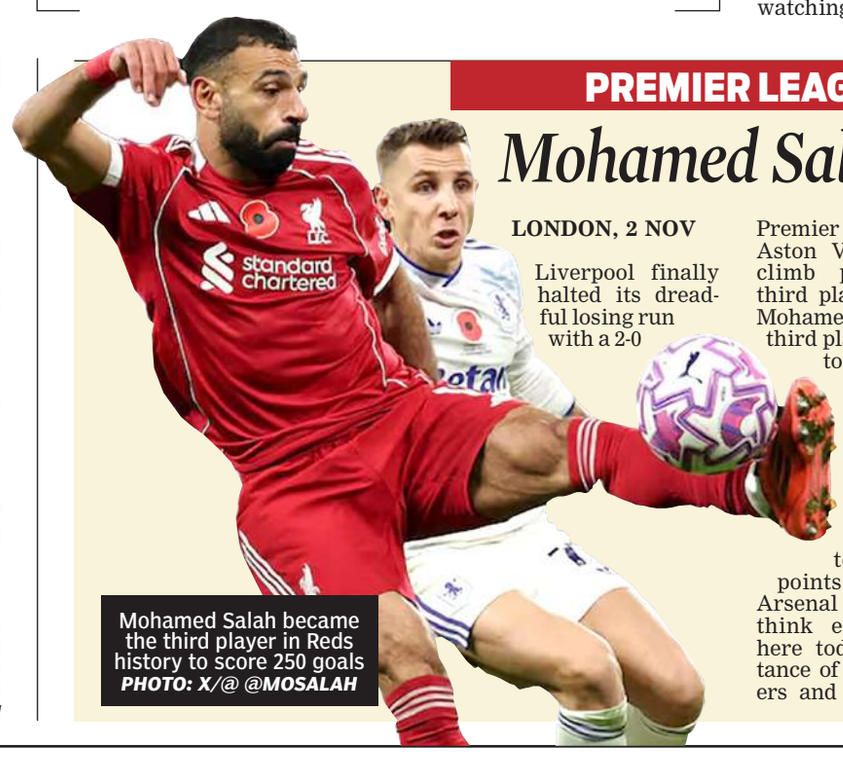
Mohamed Salah scores 250th goal

LONDON, 2 NOV

Liverpool finally halted its dreadful losing run with a 2-0 Premier League victory over Aston Villa on Sunday to climb provisionally into third place in the table, as Mohamed Salah became the third player in Reds history to score 250 goals.

Under mounting pressure after four successive league losses and six in their last seven games across all competitions Arne Slot's men climbed to within seven points of league leaders Arsenal with 18 points."I think everyone who was here today felt the importance of the game, the players and fans as well," Slot told TNT Sports. "We showed character and won the game." Salah, who has been criticized for his slow start to the season, struck in first-half injury time, capitalising on a huge blunder from Villa goalkeeper Emi Martinez, who played the ball right into the path of Liverpool's talisman.

Salah finished first time to the relief of the anxious Anfield crowd, and joined Roger Hunt and Ian Rush as the only players to score 250 goals for the Merseyside club. Ryan Gravenberch, in his first game after missing three with an ankle injury, doubled the home side's lead in the 58th minute. —*PTI*



Mohamed Salah became the third player in Reds history to score 250 goals *PHOTO: X/@ @MOSALAH*

Lionel Messi scores, but Nashville beats Inter Miami

NASHVILLE, 2 NOV

Lionel Messi scored a late goal, but sixth-seeded Nashville beat No. 3 seed Inter Miami 2-1 in Game 2 of the first round of the MLS Cup playoffs on Saturday night.

The teams will meet in Fort Lauderdale on 8 Nov. for a decisive Game 3.

It was Nashville's first playoff win since the 2021 MLS Cup Playoffs, when it defeated Orlando 2-1 at home in the first round. Saturday night's victory was also Nashville's first over Miami since May 17, 2023, in a 2-1 result.

Sam Surridge opened the scoring in the ninth minute, finding the back of the net on a penalty shot with Inter Miami goalkeeper Rocco Ríos Novo diving the opposite way of the shot.

Nashville struck again before the half as Josh Bauer connected with Hany Mukhtar's corner kick in the 45th minute to bump the lead to 2-0.

Inter Miami made things interesting late as Messi scored his sixth goal in three games against Nashville in the 90th minute.—*PTI*

Lionel Messi *PHOTO: PTI*